

Hafa Adai!

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NMI's COVID-19 total at 184

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

One more person has been confirmed positive for COVID-19 from passenger arrival testing, raising the CNMI's total number of cases to 184 since March 28, 2020.

» So far, 33,243 tested for COVID-19

The affected person was identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing on arrival last July 4, 2021, according to the health department. See COVID-19 on Page 4

Scoggins: Prosecution cheated at trial

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Stacey Lani Laniyo wants a new trial. Her lawyer, Mark Scoggins, argue that his client did not receive a fair trial, and accused the prosecution of

cheating throughout the hearing, ultimately robbing Laniyo of her right to a fair trial.

Scoggins has filed in Superior Court a motion for a new trial for Laniyo, who was found guilty of one charge. See SCOGGINS on Page 4



Scoggins

Gas prices up again by 10 cents

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

With the upward trend in fuel prices worldwide, the CNMI won't be seeing any price rollback anytime soon, with local gas prices increasing by 10 cents again in less than a month.

Mobil Oil Marianas led the way early last Friday, July 2, raising its price per gallon of fuel by 10 cents. Shell Marianas followed suit the next morning. From \$4.72 a gallon, Mobil Oil Marianas hiked its price to \$ 4.82 a gallon for the next morning. See GAS on Page 4

JGO probe learns Torreses attended political rally on government dime

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres took a trip to Oregon and Alaska in 2018 on business or first-class airfare that was paid by the CNMI government, during which the first couple attended a Republican Party political rally in Oregon.

Department of Finance's finance and accounting director See JGO on Page 4

MARPO HEIGHTS ROAD PROJECT

TINIAN—Equipment Operator 2nd Class Alex Kambic, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, removes excess material from the drainage basin of the Marpo Heights road project. NMCB-4 is forward deployed throughout the Indo-Pacific region and United States ready to support major combat operations, theater security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Seabees provide general engineering and civil support to Navy, Marine Corps and joint operational forces globally.

U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN



AT A GLANCE

As of 6:31pm, July 5, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **65%**
Days since last community transmission **104**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	25,419
Fully Vaccinated:	23,231
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,123
Fully Vaccinated:	3,879
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	448

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,373	0	8,373
Recovered	8,151	0	8,151
Active	82	0	82
Deaths	140	0	140
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	179,488		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	1	184
Traced via Travel Screening	147	1	148
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	33,243*		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Maui officials are pleading with airlines: Please don't bring so many people to our island.

PAGE 11



ASIA

The Philippine military's worst air disaster kills 50 and wounds 49 in plane crash.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Nearly eight decades later, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter are still together in the same tiny town.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the designated Public Housing Authority (PHA) authorized to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the CNMI. Federal guidelines provide that the CNMI prepared a PHA Five Year Plan for the upcoming five years. NMHC has not made any changes to the goals, objectives and policies on the Five Year Plan that was submitted and approved. Therefore, NMHC would like to inform the general public that:

1. NMHC will conduct a public hearing to solicit comments from the public for the Five Year PHA Plan on July 12, 2021, 3:00 p.m. at NMHC's Conference Room located at the main office in Garapan, Saipan; and
2. NMHC will open the public comment period from May 25, 2021 through July 12, 2021; written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on July 12, 2021 to:
 - Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Attn: PHA Five Year Plan
P.O. Box 500514
Saipan, MP 96950

Any interested persons wishing to express their views on the Five year PHA Plan may do so by either attending the public hearing or by submitting written comments to NMHC. Copies of the Five year PHA plan are available for viewing on our website at www.nmhc.gov.net and during normal business hours at the NMHC Main Office in Saipan, as well as the field offices on Tinian and Rota.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangement, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Local

FBI reaches out to Kaseya attack victims

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating a ransomware attack on software company Kaseya that reportedly hit hours before the July 4 holiday weekend, and is reaching out to impacted victims.

FBI spokesperson Michele Ernst shared with *Saipan Tribune* the FBI National Press Office's statements that encouraged those who feel their systems have been compromised as a result of the Kaseya ransomware incident to employ all

recommended mitigations.

The FBI said those affected must follow guidance from Kaseya and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to shut down their VSA servers immediately and report their compromise to the FBI at ic3.gov. Include as much information as possible to assist the FBI and CISA in determining prioritization for victim outreach.

"Due to the potential scale of this incident, the FBI and CISA may be unable to re-

spond to each victim individually, but all information we receive will be useful in countering this threat," the FBI National Press Office said.

According to news reports, hundreds of businesses, mostly small businesses, have already been affected.

Cybercriminals reportedly sent two ransom notes demanding \$50,000 from smaller companies and \$5 million from larger companies. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



MOVING ON AND UP

Cadet Gavin Pangelinan, center, smiles after graduating from the U.S. Army Cadet Command Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, KY on July 4, 2021. He is joined in the picture by his military science instructors from the University of Guam, Master Sgt. Rocky Duran, left, and Lt. Col. Thomas Anderson. Pangelinan spent 41 days training to be a combat leader in the woods of Fort Knox this summer and he will commission as an Army officer through UoG's ROTC program in May 2022. Pangelinan is a graduate of Saipan Southern High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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VOX POPULI: Should the CNMI reopen its borders to tourists now?

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"The CNMI is close to reaching its goal of having 70% of its (age 12+) population fully vaccinated, so I believe that we can finally jumpstart our tourism industry and welcome

fully-vaccinated tourists. Doing so would create new jobs for those dislocated by the pandemic, support small businesses, and give the CNMI government additional revenue to finance its operations. We've done a good job curbing the pandemic and serving

as a role model for the world for over a year now — we can do so again if COVID-19 shakes up."

—**Nathaniel Snodgrass**

"I'm all for tourism to open up, but what markets are being targeted? I read group tours and sports tourism. This is great, but we are going after niche markets again. I think adventure travelers may be an optimistic approach to add on as a niche market, [but] then again, are there enough adventure options available?"

Tourism is favorable for our islands, but to be competitive

in the global world of tourism, I firmly believe we need to have our very own flag carrier, thus opening up routes and options tied in with various air carrier routes offering the CNMI a chance to be reckoned with."

—**Wayne Pangelinan**

"Since we are close to reaching our goal of having the entire CNMI fully vaccinated, we should consider opening our borders to tourists, but limit it to those who are fully vaccinated. Many local businesses have shut down due to not making enough

money where most of their profit come from tourists. I think that with how we've been preventing the spread of COVID, we should open our borders to fully vaccinated tourists."

—**Christopher Cabrera**

"Opening up the borders to tourists is beneficial to our economy. With the number of people who are vaccinated increasing, the risk that COVID-19 poses is decreasing. However, we should still maintain all current protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission."

—**Kelvin Wolf**

"Yes, I feel like it's time we

should start opening the borders so we can slowly get back to business."

—**Austin Barcinas**

"As long as everyone's complying with [COVID-19 safety] guidelines so we don't get community cases I have no problem."

—**Maverick Irang**

"I think the South Korea bubble is a good move, and [the CNMI leadership] has done a good job handling the pandemic. I guess the CNMI should slowly open to one country at a time, with another bubble, maybe to Japan, this time?"

—**Richard Baleares**

'Domestic and sexual violence still vastly underreported in the CNMI'

Domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and even teen dating violence happen in the CNMI community yet they are still vastly underreported, according to Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Violence associate director Kiki Igitol Benjamin.

While the CNMI has made progress over the years with a more survivor-centered policies, including work protections and an emphasis on trauma-informed services, there are still barriers that prevent victims and survivors from seeking help, Benjamin said, and those barriers become even more challenging when a victim or survivor is identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or anywhere on the spectrum "that is not straight or cisgender."

Benjamin talked about these barriers and LGBT issues during the Legislature's first CNMI Pride Talks hosted by the House Committee on Health and Welfare at the House chamber last Wednesday.

She said barriers to addressing LGBT partner violence both for service providers and survivors include the belief that domestic violence does not occur in LGBT relationships and is often classified as a gender-based issue, or reported as something other than domestic violence.

Other barrier is societal anti-LGBT bias. She said society's long history of entrenched racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia prevents victims from seeking help from the police, medical, legal, and court system for fear of discrimination or bias.

Benjamin said other barriers are lack of appropriate training for service providers that's LGBT-specific and a climate of fear that airing of the problems among the LGBT population will take away from progress toward equality or fuel anti-LGBT bias.

Benjamin also noted that nationally, domestic violence shelters are typically female only, thus transgender people may not be allowed entrance into shelters due to their gender/genital.

She said that, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey done by the Centers for Disease Control, people who identify as lesbian, gay, and

bisexual have experienced domestic violence, rape, other forms of sexual violence, physical violence, and stalking by an intimate partner at higher rates than straight people, and have a harder time accessing support.

Benjamin said the CDC found that 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35% of straight women.

She said CDC also found that 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by intimate partner, compared to 29% of straight men.

"These numbers are too high no matter how you identify but it is remarkably higher for [LGBT] people, including the 47% of transgender people who will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime," she said.

Benjamin underscored the need for people's awareness of the realities and challenges that the LGBT community experiences, and learn how to be an ally. "Call out and shut down those homophobic jokes, no matter who the person saying it may be," she said.

At the coalition, Benjamin said, they are realizing how direct services for victims and survivors in the CNMI need to not only include trauma-informed care but also services that are more inclusive and LGBT-friendly.

Aside from Benjamin, the other panelists at the policy roundtable discussions during the Pride Talks were LGBT advocate and transgender Tyra Lyn Sablan, Pride Marianas Youth co-founder Dr. Jennifer Maratita, Community Guidance Center representative Tiara Evangelista, and student leaders Zenn Ichiro Tomokane and Jigger Parayaoan.

House Committee on Health and Welfare chair Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) said the panelists' insights will help guide the lawmakers in understanding how the Legislature can create spaces that are more inclusive, that are braver and safer. She proposed forming a policy working group to prioritize some of the action items that have been discussed that day and the previous meetings of the committee. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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Pandemic has LibDay celebrants wishing for normal times

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

While the community-organized motorcade in the morning and the fireworks show at night made for an enjoyable Liberation Day celebration this year, the need to downscale festivities due to the COVID-19 pandemic limited certain aspects that would have been a part of Saipan's

Liberation Day festivities pre-pandemic.

In an interview prior to the motorcade on Sunday, Joe W. McDoulett, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457, said he missed interacting with the many who would have come out and watched a Liberation Day parade.

"The pandemic has made it so different for everything. ...You can't

connect with the people the same way, but at least [Sunday's motorcade and fireworks] were something to show that we're happy to be a part of the Commonwealth, and we're happy to be a part of the United States," said McDoulett. This year was McDoulett's eighth celebration of the Fourth of July on Saipan.

Also in an interview before Sunday morning's motorcade, special

assistant for military affairs Glenna Sakisat Palacios saw the importance of keeping celebrations alive on the Fourth for both the community and for the sake of honoring those who liberated the CNMI during the events of World War II.

"We know this is the second year that Liberation Day activities have been [limited or] postponed because of the pandemic, but [Liberation Day] is really a time that our community looks forward to every single year. ...We just wanted to [hold a motorcade] in honor for those that liberated our islands and members of our community, and to also acknowledge and appreciate our veterans and

members of our armed forces that are serving today," said Palacios.

Liberation Day celebrations last year were fully virtual in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, a government-sponsored Liberation Day parade was cancelled to maintain safety during the pandemic, but the Saipan Mayor's Office was able to host a 15-20 minute fireworks display on Sunday night at the Garapan Fishing Base.

On Sunday morning, through a massive group effort from Saipan's military organizations, car clubs, and the community, a more than 100-vehicle motorcade was made possible on July 4 this year.



Members of the community take part in Sunday morning's Liberation Day motorcade, sporting various July 4-themed decorations on their vehicles.

JOSHUA SANTOS

COVID-19

From Page 1

ing to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement yesterday that was also immediately posted on CHCC's Facebook page.

It said the individual has been moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring and that CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

Meanwhile, CHCC affirmed that it continues to do community-based testing for COVID-19 at Kanoa Resort, one of the designated quaran-

tine facility.

Chief of Ancillary Services Jesse Tudela said in an email that a total of 12,776 individuals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have already been tested through community-based testing, or CBT, from April 28, 2020, to June 30 this year.

In all, including boat passengers/crew who took part in border screening tests and CBT, a total of 33,243 individuals in the CNMI have already been tested for COVID-19.

The last time CHCC did community-based testing was last June 30 at Kanoa Resort. According to Tudela, CBT has been offered weekly every Wednesday since March 15 this year.

Even if the CNMI is already beyond the 60% threshold of its eligible population being fully vac-

inated as of June 30, Tudela still sees the importance of community testing. Tudela advises the community to continue to practice due diligence to greatly reduce the chances of spread.

"Community-based testing allows for the surveillance of COVID-19 within the community. It is an important tool in our fight against this virus. We would like to remind residents to remain cautious when interacting with folks whose vaccination status is unknown. Remember the 3 W's: wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance," said Tudela.

As of June 30, on Saipan 36 positive cases of COVID-19 were identified through community testing, and 148 positive cases were identified through incoming travel screening.

Palacios said the boarding pass and the itinerary that are attached to the travel document indicated that the airfare was listed as "business class unrestricted."

The director said she's not sure of any public purpose for this trip for Diann Torres and that there was no trip report.

She also agreed that, based on the documents, Ralph DLG Torres received compensation, including lodging and per diem or stipend, during this entire period of travel.

Sablan also showed a copy of a travel voucher that itemized the governor's expenditure in the amount of \$1,064 for lodging in Oregon.

Palacios said in the governor's amended travel authorization, it was then-Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson who signed it. Palacios said she did not see that amended travel authorization.

Sablan said the travel authorization was subsequently amended on April 13, 2018, to include stipend and lodging and justification to meet with potential business partners in Oregon.

In response to Sablan's question, Palacios said she does not know who are the potential business partners mentioned in the amended travel authorization. The director said she does not know the nature of this business and that there was no trip report.

Palacios said she has not knowledge if Gov. Ralph DLG Torres indeed met Kuwabara and Campbell. She said she does not know if there was a public purpose in that Oregon stop.

Sablan said that, according to the travel voucher and supporting documents attached, Torres stopped in Oregon from April 28 to 30 before heading to Alaska. Palacios said she's not aware of any official government business that was conducted during this stop in Oregon.

Sablan then showed some photos that were taken from the screenshots of a political rally in Oregon on April 30, 2018. Palacios identified the first couple when shown one photo. She said she does not recognize any other government officials in that one photo. Palacios said she's not aware that Torres was planning to make a campaign stop in Oregon during this trip.

Palacios agreed with Sablan that had she known about their plan to attend the rally, she would have raised concerns. "You can't go on a political matter with government authorization. It's not allowed," the director said.

She agreed with Sablan that government funds should not be used to pay for any portion of expenses incurred for political campaign, including travel, per diem, lodging and car rental.

GAS

From Page 1

its Extra fuel. Mobil also raised its Supreme fuel from \$5.17 a gallon to \$5.27 while its diesel fuel also went up from \$4.78 a gallon to \$4.93.

According to a 27-year-old motorist, it is upsetting to get gas and see that prices are up again in less than a month. "Ten cents may be small, but it adds up. Instead of using that extra cash to put food on the table for my family, I have to use it on gas because how else will my wife and I make it to work?" he said.

The motorist added that he used to be able to fill up his car with just \$40. Now, it costs nearly \$50 to bring his vehicle to full tank.

With the increase in fuel prices, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has also increased its fuel adjustment charge or FAC. As a result, the previous FAC rate of \$0.17341 per kWh increased to \$0.19355 per kWh effective last week, July 1.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC Electric kWh Rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. The base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust, up or down, the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5 % differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate.

SCOGGINS

From Page 1

count of child abuse over the death of a 3-year-old child.

According to Scoggins, a new trial is warranted because of the "pervasive, egregious, intentional, unethical, and irresponsible prosecutorial misconduct" that collectively robbed Laniyo of her right to due process under the U.S. and CNMI constitutions.

"A citizen of the Commonwealth sits in jail at this moment because the prosecutor in her trial, hell-bent on obtaining a conviction irrespective of anything else, willfully and intentionally trampled over the citizen's constitutional right to a fair trial. [She], at a bare minimum, deserves a new trial," he said.

Scoggins alleged that the lead prosecutor in the case, assistant attorney general Coleen St. Clair, engaged in egregious misconduct from start to finish, going as far as to call on a witness to testify about events she did not have personal knowledge of.

"The single most damaging witness testified that Laniyo had punched the 3-year-old in the face and split his lip even though the witness had zero personal knowledge of the alleged incident. The prosecutor knew this and presented this inadmissible evidence anyway," he said.

In addition, Scoggins said, the

evidence against Laniyo was weak and there was no real evidence of abuse beyond scratches on the child's buttocks. The only witness who testified to actual physical abuse, Scoggins added, admitted to having no personal knowledge of the incident—the punch that caused the split lip.

"The only witness who testified to actual physical contact between Laniyo and the victim had no personal knowledge, or otherwise testifying to events that allegedly happened outside the first half of March when the alleged child abuse incident happened. Nobody else saw anything. The prosecution's evidence amounted to three points: Trust us the injuries were much worse than they look in the photos; if you use your imagination, you can see the bruising; and we have other photos much worse, we just did not show them to you," he said.

Last June 24, a six-person Superior Court jury unanimously issued a guilty verdict against Laniyo for one charge of child abuse for the death of the 3-year-old boy.

Following the reading of the verdict, Scoggins told Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho that he would be filing a motion for a new trial, and he would be making a request with the Supreme Court to grant a stay, or temporarily suspend, the verdict.

JGO

From Page 1

Bernadita C. Palacios talked about the first couple's Oregon and Alaska trip in her testimony Friday before the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee that is investigating the Torreses' travels and expenditures.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) showed Palacios a copy of a travel authorization indicating that on or about April 28 to May 8, 2018, Torres and his wife took a trip from Saipan to Oregon and Alaska, with other stops in between.

Sablan said that, according to the initial travel authorization, the purpose of this trip was for the governor to meet with a federal officer Gary Kuwabara from the U.S. Department of Defense as well as Craig Campbell in Alaska regarding Alaska aerospace.

Palacios said the governor requested the travel authorization and that it's her signature on the travel authorization that certifies that funds were available for this trip.

Palacios agreed with Sablan based on the documents presented that the total airfare for the first couple for that trip cost the government a total of \$16,250 or \$8,125 for each one.



Congratulations CNMI & SOUTH KOREA

LET'S KEEP IT UP AND MAINTAIN CNMI
AS SAFE TRAVEL DESTINATION!

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to Gov. Ralph Torres and his team, MVA, COVID-19 Task Force, Medical Team, Republic of Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Airline companies, Hotel management, travel agencies, business leaders, different government agencies and all other individuals for their hard work, endeavor and dedication in making this travel bubble possible.

The CNMI community has shown perseverance and resiliency as we all fight this pandemic. Let us continue to support tourism and keep CNMI safe for everyone.

Let's welcome our guest with the warmest Hafa Adai spirit and Hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Travel Bubble

FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF:



ARIANAS MEAT HARVESTING CO



Budget process should not be politicized—Guerrero

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero said Tuesday night that the House Ways and Means Committee's bud-

get process should not be politicized by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) or any other member of the Legislature.

This comes soon after Babauta recommended allocating just \$1 for the commissioner's

position in the DPS budget after Guerrero failed to show up for the committee hearing on the DPS budget request. Guerrero had asked to be given more time to be excused from the committee hearing as he is

on medical leave.

When asked about Babauta's recommendation, Guerrero said in an email last week it is disappointing to hear that comment. "It is not only absolutely disgraceful and inappropriate, but considering the years of investment I've put into this department and to doing my best to protect this community, it is insulting and speaks of her purely political agenda," the commissioner said.

Guerrero said he asked House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M.

Manglona (Ind-Rota) for the extension because he needs more time before he can appear before the committee due to personal medical reasons.

The commissioner said during the original date of the hearing, June 8, his team was present and ready to respond to any inquiries and address any concerns related to the DPS budget.

He said if the committee could not accommodate an alternative schedule without his presence, his team stands ready.

"Our officers are always ready to serve and keep the public safe despite the poli-

tics of certain members of the Legislature," Guerrero added.

Manglona disclosed in an interview Tuesday that Guerrero had informed him of his intention to take an additional two-week medical leave, soon after Manglona sent him a courtesy message to see if he can attend the budget hearing for DPS because the two-week medical leave that Guerrero had first taken is nearly over.

This development promoted Babauta to recommend, after completion of the committee's budget hearing on the Department of Community and Culture's budget, to allocate a \$1 budget for Guerrero's salary in the DPS budget for fiscal year 2022.


Babauta also recommended asking Guerrero for a medical slip about his leave.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) supported Babauta's recommendations.

Sablan noted that the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee that Babauta chairs had subpoenaed Guerrero and that he was at his office Monday, and that he was also able to answer questions from the media. Yet, Sablan said, the commissioner can't appear for a budget hearing.

At the June 8 DPS budget hearing, Guerrero did not show up as he was on Tinian. Manglona reset the DPS budget hearing to June 11 but that also did not push through after Guerrero asked to reschedule the hearing.

At a budget hearing last year, Guerrero and Sablan had a tense exchange following the lawmaker's back-to-back questions on nepotism, furloughs, and civil service rules at DPS.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-016

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A 1.5 MW TRAILER MOUNTED DIESEL GENERATING SET WITH ENCLOSURE FOR THE CUC POWER PLANT NO. 3, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than July 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.


All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Water Utility Coordinator, Yvonne C. Ogumoro via email address yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD

P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/19/2021)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 - Update on the 4 proposed regulations (public comments)
 - Update on the amendment to P.L. 15-105 – Removal of Limited Terms for HCPLB
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
 - P. Biukoto
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - Dr. E. Chang – Physician
 - Dr. S. Shushunov – Physician
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-027

SUBMISSION DATE: July 23, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Engineering and Design Related Services for Route 103 Road Improvements, Rota”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **July 09, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 16, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, Director Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds
07/02/2021

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Flood Plain

This is to give notice that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as the Responsible Entity under Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C -Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for the Road Improvement Project on Route 33, Beach Road, Saipan. The activity is funded through the Community Development Block Grant –Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program grant number B-19-DV-69-0001 & B-19-DV-69-0002.

The proposed activity consist of regrading and resurfacing of the existing road and repair of existing surface drainage appurtenances such as curb/gutter and swales will streamline flow and migration of runoff properly. The improvement will ensure road safety and enhance floodplain development by ensuring no potential standing water is retained and that the rate of runoff discharge to seawater is minimized and dispersed. This activity is also National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliant.

The public may view the information and provide comments regarding the proposed activity by visiting the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the public notice/announcement tab and selecting the Environmental Review Records or you may visit the NMHC CDBG-DR website at <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com>.

The NMHC has reevaluated the alternatives of the road improvement project on Route 33, Beach Road Saipan, and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection and review online at <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com> or <https://www.nmhc.gov.net>. You may also visit our office located in Garapan, Saipan.

The NMHC has published online the 8-step decision making process for projects in the floodplain. The public may access and review the determination of no significant impact for the road improvement project on Route 33, Beach Road, Saipan at <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com> or <https://www.nmhc.gov.net> or you may visit our office located in Garapan, Saipan.

Written comments shall be submitted on or before July 12, 2021, no later than 4:00 p.m. Comments may be submitted from the following submission methods: email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp; or facsimile to (670)234-9021; or hand deliver to the NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan. Attention: CDBG-DR Project Team

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor, CNMI

Youth Congress passes three bills, adopts one resolution

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This year's Youth Congress adopted at their recent first special session a commemorative resolution and passed three bills, including a legislation that will require all public schools in the CNMI—elementary, middle, and high schools—to teach at least one full year of the Chamorro or Carolinian languages.

Youth Congress vice speaker Liekeila'akata Tapua'ialupe Iakopo said in an interview after their session that another bill will mandate schools to come up with one Youth Congress representative because there's only five of them this year. "There should be more [representatives] because there's more schools. So I feel like right now, we need more involvement with the schools and cooperation," Iakopo said.

She said the third bill they passed would ban plastic bags.

Iakopo said they also adopted a commemorative resolution conveying their condolences to the family of the late Simeon E. Taisacan to honor his career in public service and service as secretary of the 17th Rota Municipal Council.

Youth Congress bills do not become law by themselves. They are submitted to the Legislature for consideration as possible bills that could be offered for enactment.

The next Youth Congress session will be on July 13.

The Youth Congress bill that requires one full year of Chamorro or Carolinian language study for high school students to graduate, and for middle school students to be promoted, is Youth Congress Bill 18-02, also known as "the CNMI Indigenous Language Preservation Act of 2021." It was introduced by Youth Congress Speaker Cielo Citlalli G. Long.

The bill also requires PSS to offer at least two years of Chamorro or Carolinian language classes for those students who wish to continue instruction after the first year.

Long stated in the bill that

saving the Chamorro/Carolinian languages are crucial to ensure the protection of the cultural dignity of the indigenous people, and safeguard the CNMI's traditional heritage.

The speaker said that, according to the Guam 2010 census, only 16% of the entire population of Guam claimed they could speak Chamorro, with just 2,394 individuals of whom are under the age of 18.

Long said a short survey among high school students on Tinian illustrates a similar percentage to Guam, with just 18% speaking Chamorro or Carolinian at home or among friends and family.

Therefore, Long said, providing students the opportunity to explore their cultural background through language is necessary to uphold cultural preservation



Iakopo

and to defend against the potential loss of the CNMI's indigenous languages.

Long also offered Youth Congress Bill 18-03, also known as "the CNMI Retail Plastic Bag Ban Act of 2021," that will ban the use of plastic checkout bags. Under the bill, all unused plastic bags in the possession of persons or stores shall be immediately turned over to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

For businesses that use biodegradable plastic bags to replace their regular plastic bag inventory, they may take cash expenditures made during the tax year to qualify their business for a nonrefundable credit of up to \$5,000 in one year. Any store violating this shall be fined not less than \$100 and no more than \$1,000 for each day a violation occurs.

»Bill proposes to require public schools to teach a full year of Chamorro or Carolinian languages

PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the public that Marlyn P. Pascual is no longer connected with FM Corporation dba FM Manpower effective July 2nd, 2021.

Any transaction made or entered by her after the above-mentioned date will no longer be honored by the company.

For any questions or concerns, please call our office at Tel.234-4000.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,
Plaintiff,)
-v-) CIVIL ACTION
The Estate of ANTONIO GUILIMON ADRIANO,) NO. 17-0180
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 22, 2021, I will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot 010 K 357, situated on Mestiza Avenue, Dandan, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded 19 August, 1987 as Document no. 87-2910 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and re-recorded 09 September 1987 as Document no. 87-3103 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan

Total Area of the Property:

892 square meters

Known encumbrances:

None Known

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 30, 2021, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of June, 2021:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of)
the Estate of) CIVIL ACTION
JOHN CLARION DOWAI,) NO. 21-0202
Deceased.)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of John Clarion Dowai, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of John Clarion Dowai, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: 30 JUNE, 2021

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

Long stated in the bill that there is an ongoing threat to marine and terrestrial animals due to discarded non-compostable plastic bags.

Youth Congress Bill 18-01, or known as the "CNMI Youth Congress Reform Act of 2021," will mandate each private and public high school with a student population of 20 to have one Youth Congress senator.

The bill, which is authored by Sen. Easton C. Dela Cruz, requires a minimum of one senator from each private and public school.

Dela Cruz stated in the bill that the 18th Youth Congress currently has only five members that consist of youth representing private and public high schools. Dela Cruz said five members are not enough

to represent all CNMI youth. The bill defines youth as between 14 and 18 years old.

Legislative Secretary Abriette Patience T. Manglona offered the Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No.

18-01., which honors Taisacan and his career in public service that spans nearly two decades.

The other Youth Congress member is YuriHana Deleon Guerrero Sasamoto, who is the Youth Congress floor leader.



JOB VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-004	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	JULY 6, 2021	JULY 20, 2021
LOCATION	MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY, SAIPAN		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304

DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540

DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator
Zabrina C. Shai
Acting Director, DEQ
Janice Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION: The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Office of the Governor, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) intends to amend the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Standards regulations pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 1 CMC § 9104(a).

AUTHORITY: These amendments are promulgated under the authority of BECQ pursuant to 2 CMC § 3121 to issue regulations to carry out its policies and purposes, including to develop and administer programs to prevent or regulate activities as necessary to protect the public health or welfare from any significant adverse effect of the discharge of pollutants. 2 CMC § 3122.

TERMS AND SUBSTANCE: BECQ is required by the federal Clean Water Act to conduct a comprehensive review of the Water Quality Standards at least once every three years and, as appropriate, to modify and adopt those standards. The proposed amendments will, among other things:

- Increase clarity, including using consistent terminology and defined terms throughout;
- Increase consistency between federal programs and state regulations, including the Tier 2 anti-degradation policy and the Water Quality Certification process;
- Establish a presumption that Tier 3 anti-degradation requirements apply where BECQ determines that insufficient data exists to reasonably determine existing water quality;
- Apply land disposal requirements to all areas regulated as groundwater management zones;
- Clarify certain water quality criteria for cases when ambient conditions exceed numeric criteria;
- Establish water quality criteria for radioactivity in Commonwealth waters;
- Clarify stoppage periods for activities with potential to adversely affect coral reproduction;
- Revise procedural requirements for Water Quality Certifications;
- Expand enforcement procedures; and
- Delete outdated appendix information regarding history and other background information.

CITATION OF AFFECTED REGULATIONS: The proposed amendments will update multiple existing regulations and adopt new regulations in NMIAC Chapter 65-130.

DIRECTIONS FOR FILING AND PUBLICATION: The proposed amendment shall be published in the Commonwealth Register in the section on proposed and newly adopted regulations (1 CMC § 9201(a)(1)) and posted in convenient places in the civic center and in local governmental offices in each senatorial district, both in English and in the principal vernacular (1 CMC § 9104(a)(1)).

COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed amendment to Larry Maurin, DEQ Water Quality Surveillance/Non-Point Source Branch Manager, to the following address, fax, or email address, with the subject line "Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Standards."

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY

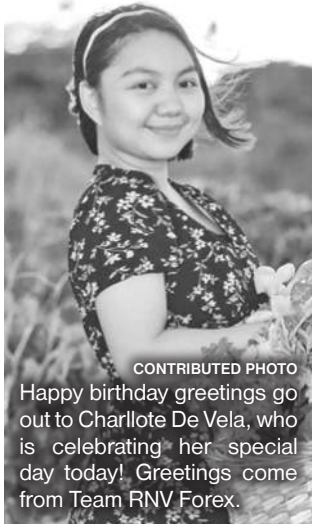
PO Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950

Fax: (670) 664-8540

Email: larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp

Comments are due by **5pm ChST on Monday, August 2nd, 2021**. In addition, a public hearing will be held on Monday, July 26th, 2021 at 5:00pm in DEQ's main conference room on the second floor of the Gualo Rai Center in Gualo Rai, Saipan. 1 CMC § 9104(a)(2). The public hearing will be accessible online via GoogleMeet at the following link: <https://meet.google.com/nwe-qkyw-jco>

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Charlotte De Vela, who is celebrating her special day today! Greetings come from Team RNV Forex.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 132Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Feels like we're there, but we're not. The delta variant is in the way

Chicago feels refreshingly alive again. Restaurants across the city—the ones that managed to stay open—bustle with diners. Wrigley Field and Guaranteed Rate Field are once more inviting full capacity. Beaches, the lakefront path, city parks—speckled with Chicagoans. That sense of normalcy the city craved for over a year—Chicago can feel it. Time to pop the Champagne?

Hold on. The delta variant is derailing party plans.

One lesson we've learned during the pandemic is the coronavirus's capacity to mutate. Variants have emerged—gamma from Brazil, alpha from the U.K., and now, delta from India—that have caused new outbreaks in parts of the world and forced governments to reimpose lockdowns. In Australia, Sydney issued a two-week stay-at-home order over concern about the delta variant. Delta also prompted Israel to reimpose its mask requirement.

In the U.S., delta now accounts for half of all new cases in as many as 10 states, including Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, and for more than 20% of all new coronavirus infections in the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Illinois, cases attributed to the delta variant remain low—just 84 as of Sunday. However, Gov. J.B. Pritzker said this week that Illinoisans can expect delta to dominate cases statewide by the fall.

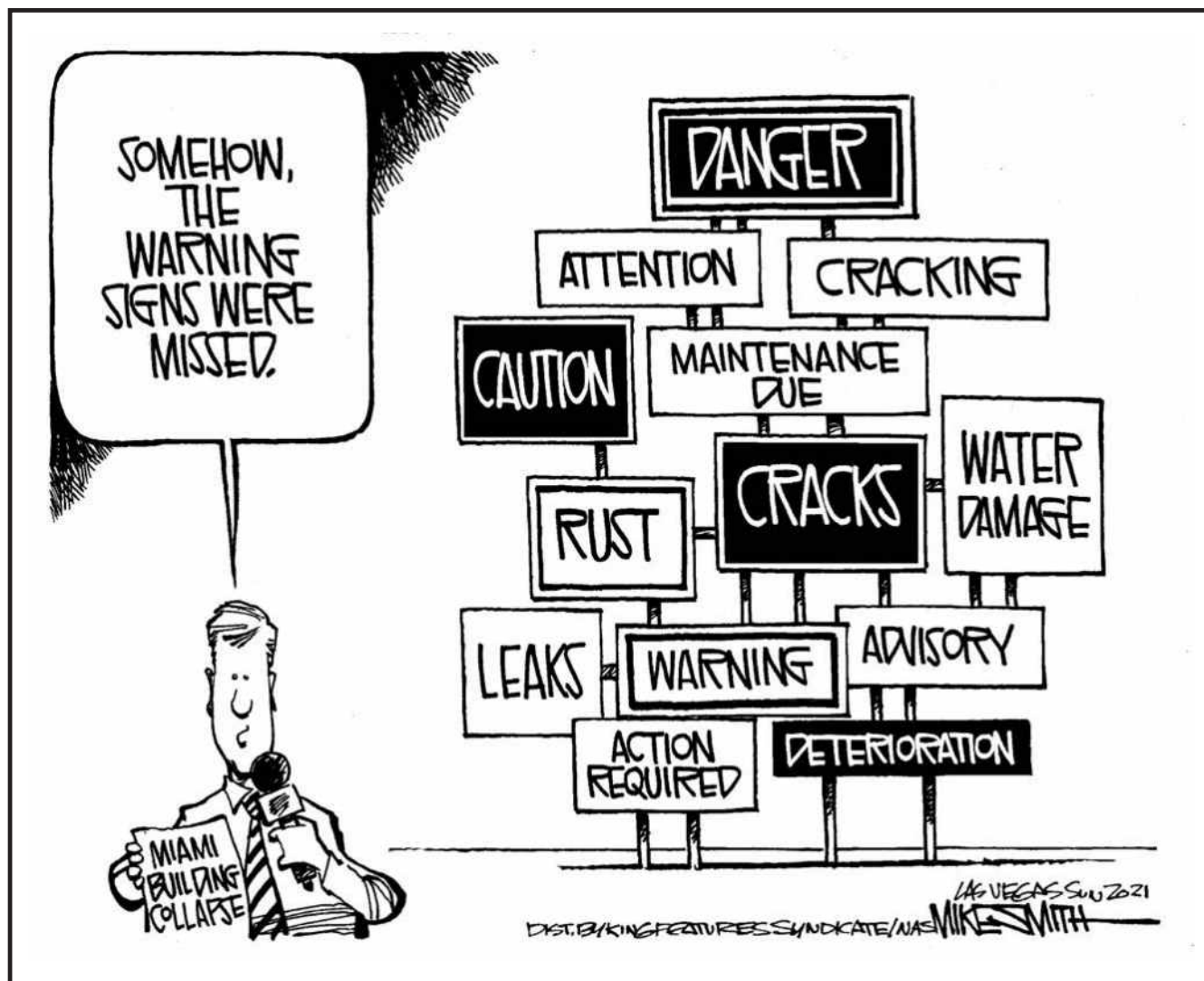
Delta's especially concerning because it spreads faster than other variants. Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, director general of the World Health Organization, calls delta "the most transmissible" variant as of yet. And, the CDC says the delta variant can result in "more severe disease."

As daunting as delta is, the best firewall we can put up is obvious. Vaccinations are the biggest reason why Illinois' seven-day rolling average positivity rate is now under 1%. On Wednesday, Illinois had 259 COVID-19 cases, compared with a peak of 17,608 last November. And yet, despite that progress, more than half of Illinoisans have yet to be fully vaccinated. The state's daily average for vaccinations has dipped from more than 100,000 a day in the sprint to the current seven-day rolling average of 43,219 vaccines administered.

"The delta variant is currently the greatest threat in the U.S. to our attempt to eliminate COVID-19," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said at a recent White House briefing on the virus. "Good news: Our vaccines are effective against the delta variant. ... We have the tools. So let's use them, and crush the outbreak."

Younger Americans, those in their late teens and early 20s, have been particularly reluctant to get vaccinated. Reasons vary from strong ideological opposition to vaccines

See DELTA on Next Page



Does your business need a legal audit?

Running a business is not easy. Not only must you keep customers happy while staying one step in front of the competition; you also must comply with a tapestry of not-so-obvious rules and regulations. Otherwise, one or more of the many local and federal government agencies might whack you with fines or worse for breaking their rules.

This predicament is especially tough for new businesses. At that stage, they have enough to worry about just finding customers. As a result, it's fairly common for new businesses to take shortcuts either accidentally or on purpose. These shortcuts, in turn, bake risks into your business that could spoil at any time.

As your company matures, one way to find and fix areas ripe for penalties or litigation is to conduct a legal audit. Under this process, a business lawyer or other subject-matter expert will analyze your company by examining your records, policies, and procedures. But the scope of that analysis is up to you. The reviewer can target a single ailment, check for the usual suspects, or run a full battery of tests.

What kind of documents will the audit look at? It depends on the scale of the audit. But in a broad audit, the auditor would check your organizational documents like the articles of organization, operating agreements, corporate resolutions, meeting minutes, and more. They also would review your government filings such as your tax ID and business licenses. Plus, they would look at your insurance policies and business contracts (both your templates and signed contracts). If you have employees, the auditor would also want to see your employment agreements, employment handbook, policy documents, I-9 Forms, and so on. And if you have intellectual property, real estate, or potential litigation, then the auditor would also want to view things like your patents, trademarks, copyrights, leases, and litigation-related documents.

Once the auditor had assembled and reviewed these documents, they would draft a report. The report would summarize the information gathered, identify potential risks, suggest ways to manage or eliminate the risk, and provide a list of recommendations for how to move forward.

What kind of risks do audits typically spot? Many things. But some of the common ones include identifying ways in which the company's behavior might cause owners to be personally liable for the company's debts and problems; discovering that the company does not have all of the proper permits and licenses, thus putting the business at risk of penalties or even closure; and uncovering failures to obey tax, wage, immigration, safety, or equal-employment-opportunity rules that could lead to fines

FINE PRINT

By JORDAN SUNDELL

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

and lawsuits.

Is a legal audit just for young businesses trying to figure out their legal weak spots? Hardly. Owners thinking about selling their business should conduct a legal audit too.

Why? For the same reason that people tune up their cars or tidy up their houses before selling them. To get top dollar, the business needs to be in good shape when the potential buyer performs its own version of a legal audit. Otherwise, the buyer will walk away or ask for a discount.

Plus, a fresh audit saves time. After all, if you've just performed an audit and fixed the issues, then it's easy to transfer the newly improved records, policies, and procedures to the buyer for review. But if you haven't, then you'll need to do all that work in the midst of a potential sale and hope for no unwanted surprises.

How often should you conduct a legal audit? It depends. But, at a minimum, it makes sense to conduct a legal audit before putting the business up for sale as well as any time the company's management changes significantly. You may also want to conduct an audit every few years just to make sure that everything is in good shape.

In sum, whether you are a new business just learning about the many rules that apply to you, a seasoned business about to be put for sale, or somewhere in between, periodically having a fresh pair of knowledgeable eyes check out the company's documents, policies, and procedures can save you time, money, and headaches later.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

I thought of her as a daughter until a confession years later made me question my memories

By **ROBERTO LOIEDERMAN**
THE BALTIMORE SUN

In the early 1990s, I opened up a small deli and hired a couple of my older son's friends, about 20 years old, to work there.

One of them was Bonnie.

I'd first met her when she and my son were in a high school production of "Guys and Dolls." She was beautiful, talented and charming, with natural charisma, and the audience was enraptured whenever she sang.

Bonnie lived with her mother in a house two blocks from me, so when she and I closed the deli at night, I'd drive her home, and I'd tell her anecdotes I had dined out on for years: when I was a deckhand on ammo ships to Vietnam, when I spent months studying meditation in Indian ashrams or took peyote with the Native American Church. Bonnie laughed or gasped in all the right places, a perfect audience of one.

I know what you're probably thinking, but there was no romantic vibe on my part. None. I thought of her as the daughter I'd never had.

The deli was struggling to survive, and on top of that, I was diagnosed with cancer. During the months I went through radiation and surgery, Bonnie and Rudy, a night clerk, ran the deli. After treatment, when I returned to work, I realized there was a discrepancy between how much food we sold and how much money we took in. I suspected that Rudy, the night clerk, was stealing from the till, so I let him go.

After three years, I closed the deli and moved on.

Fast forward to the Fourth of July 2005. My sons were playing with a brass band at a farmers' market and I ran into Bonnie, whom I hadn't seen in years. She was thin, her face was drawn, her complexion sallow. She pulled me aside, so we could talk.

"I'm not well," she said, looking down. "I've been sick, very sick."

"You know, they can do things, look at me ..."

She shook her head. "It's spread. It's spread all over."

"Look, they can ..."

"No, they can't. I've got two months. Maybe less. There's something else," she said, "something else. It wasn't Rudy, it was me."

"What?"

"I was the one stealing from you. It was me. I don't even know how much I took. Hundreds? Thousands? Night after night."

I was silent. Bonnie had suddenly brought it all back to me. How I'd blamed Rudy and never suspected her.

"Please forgive me. Please ... forgive me." She was crying.

"Of course I forgive you."

I meant it. I didn't care about the money.

What I thought about were those nights I drove her home, when she listened to my stories and laughed at just the right spots. Had she laughed at me, knowing she was taking advantage of a middle-aged fool who thought he'd formed a connection—a father-daughter bond—that didn't exist? Was her stealing from the till something she thought of as her due for having put up

with my stories?

I hugged her gently. I could feel the ravages of her illness: her ribs, her lack of flesh, her frailty. Her human frailty.

Weeks later, Bonnie died at 31. In her obituary notice, her husband wrote that Bonnie's final wish was that we all "take time to dance and to cry, and never forget ... that we are all connected."

Bonnie's heartbreaking death and her plea for forgiveness rippled through me. Mouthing the words, I addressed an absent Rudy, whom I'd fired unjustly, and asked him for forgiveness. And all those friends and lovers I abandoned during my youth, I asked them for forgiveness as well. And my long-dead parents, who suffered while I drifted around the world, having dangerous adventures, I also asked them for forgiveness.

I recalled Bonnie's confession, and it occurred to that maybe it wasn't by chance that I ran into her. She could have known my sons were performing and may have gone to the farmers market on purpose, knowing I'd be there. That's who she was, I told myself, a good and decent soul who made a horrible mistake, and—while mortally ill—made a courageous effort to tell the truth and get my forgiveness before dying.

I'd like to believe that, I'd really like to believe that—though I know it's probably me being foolish again.

Roberto Loiederman grew up in Baltimore and is co-author of The Eagle Mutiny, a nonfiction account of the only armed shipboard mutiny on a U.S. vessel in modern times. His email is loiederman@yahoo.com.

The impact of our war on police

Suppose you're in a battlefield with bad guys coming at you full force and you have the means of stopping them, but, while calling your own troops names, you pull them off the field, letting the bad guys have their murderous way. That's not that far from what we've done in the United States of America with cops, and we thus have had an egregious homicide rise. Guess who pays the most: our Black American citizens.

It is terrible, terrible, terrible that some of our police have themselves done horrible things, but while the George Floyd tragedy signaled a deep need for reform, the Democrats preferred denying Republicans any say to getting anything done. Police are still being universally demeaned as immoral racists and, in some major cities, police forces have been at least temporarily stripped of significant funds. Police have retired early and quit in record numbers.

Those numbers? It's 3,700 beat cops who are gone, it is reported, and think of a policewoman in Asheville, North Carolina, who was written about in The New York Times. Because of her presumably mistaken career, friends quit talking to her. Relatives quit talking to her. A demonstrator set her clothes on fire. As quoted in the Times, she said, "I am drowning in this politically charged atmosphere of hate and destruction." She quit. One problem with

that is that police are hard to replace at the moment.

We've had thousands of protests saying abolish cops and hundreds of riots saying the same thing, using violence as an exclamation mark. Defunding has proceeded. Portland, for instance, cut a police budget in 2020 by \$16 million after 12 homicides and then experienced 44 more homicides with 200 police officers taking off and the homicides in 2021 getting worse.

For more, consider how experts are telling us that homicides went up by a whopping, incredible 30 percent in 34 of the nation's largest cities, a historic rise, in 2020. The bloody, ugly, inhumane increase in homicides was a much higher, an unbelievable 92 percent in Louisville and 95 percent in Milwaukee.

Hey, the pandemic did it, some say, but a precise study shows the big bump did not come until virulent anti-police protests went national. Nothing exacerbates crime like the lessened prevention that followed, and those who think police a foremost threat to Black Americans should consider the exceptional death toll experienced by Black Americans.

Those in tough neighborhoods obviously know more about this issue from direct experience than our political betters do from ideological contemplation, and guess what 80 percent have

By **JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



said to Gallup about cops. They want them around.

President Joe Biden wants to give communities money to help the cops in whatever way is most needed, a good idea, especially if he takes the money from some of his suspect ambitions. He wants gun dealers with federal licenses to abide by the rules and universal background checks. Common sense, right? His wish for gun bans will unlikely make a dent in the 400 million already out there, however. President Barack Obama spent eight years threatening gun controls, saw gun sales spiral instead and was often called the world's best gun salesman.

Disadvantaged farmers deserve help

By **ANTHONY PAHNKE and JIM GOODMAN**
PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Acknowledging the federal government's role in decades of systemic discrimination in agriculture, Congress in March approved \$5 billion in debt forgiveness for farmers of color as part of President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan.

In response, some white farmers are suing the Biden administration for racial discrimination—not for having discriminated against farmers of color but for making an effort to address historic inequalities.

The lawsuit, launched by the conservative law firm Wisconsin

Institute for Law and Liberty, claims that dedicating resources to specific groups to which white farmers may not belong, is racist. The suit, similar to one filed in Texas, alleges that the white farmers are victims of racism.

On June 10, a federal judge in Wisconsin issued a temporary restraining order halting the program.

Yet Wisconsin provides a good example of how systemic racism has put Black farmers at a disadvantage. In addition to discrimination in housing, education and employment, the state's Black farmers were historically denied loans because of the color of their skin.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines "socially disadvantaged farmers" as producers who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group. The agency has dispersed more than 500 grants totaling more than \$138 million to disadvantaged farmers since 1994.

Pete Daniel, in his book "Dispossession: Discrimination Against African American Farmers in the Age of Civil Rights," documents how Black farmers lost their operations at a disproportionate rate when compared to their white counterparts. They were systematically denied loans or not provided adequate information on how they could benefit from New Deal-era programs.

A 1999 federal court ruling, *Pigford v. Glickman*, sent about \$1 billion to individual farmers who had experienced racial discrimination by the USDA. Similar victories were won by Latinx farmers in *Garcia v. Vilsack* and Native American farmers in *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*.

Other groups, including veterans and women, have also received special attention, but these did not lead to lawsuits on be-

half of excluded whites, who are now falsely being portrayed as victims by political conservatives.

Moreover, as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has noted, "When you look at the COVID relief plans that had been passed and distributed by USDA [in 2020], and you look at who disproportionately received the benefits of those COVID payments, it's pretty clear that white farmers did pretty well." One analysis found that white farmers received 97% of the money dispersed in the first of two pandemic relief programs last year.

If those responsible for these lawsuits cared about agriculture and rural communities, they would back the farmers of color, as well as bills introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) to provide debt relief for small operators, by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) to strengthen the nation's antitrust laws, or by Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) to place a moratorium on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).

Racism in agriculture is a historic fact that must be confronted directly. There is no anti-white racism involved in Biden's debt relief proposal, only an attempt to address decades of institutional discrimination so that the rural United States can take a step in the right direction.

Anthony Pahnke is the vice president of the Family Farm Defenders and assistant professor of international relations at San Francisco State University. Jim Goodman is an emeritus organic dairy farmer from Wonewoc, Wisconsin and board president of the National Family Farm Coalition. This column was produced for The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.






DELTA

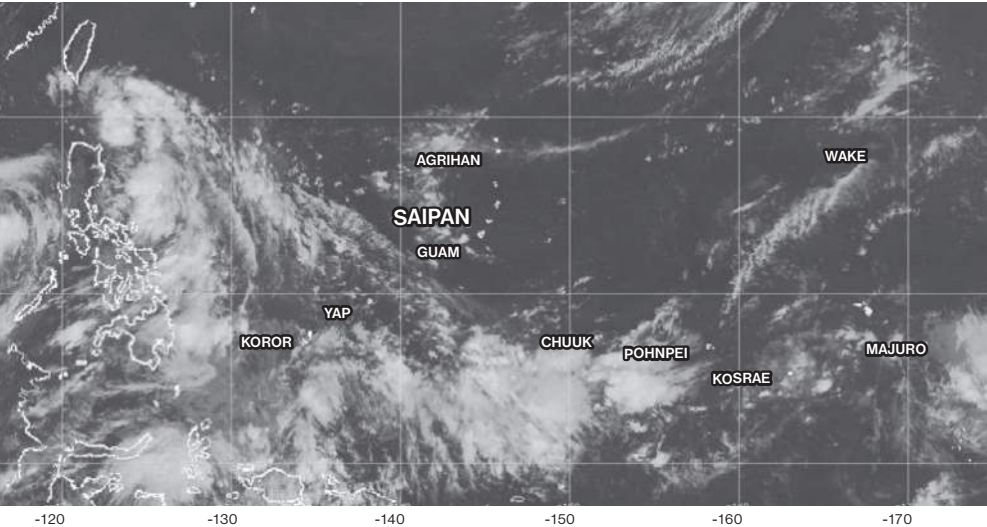
From Page 8

to indifference about the need to get them. The Biden administration says it will redouble efforts to get younger Americans vaccinated.

In the meantime, everyone within earshot of a Gen Z individual—parent, grandparent, sibling, neighbor—should drive home the message. Want everything as it was? Pine for a time when masks stay in drawers? Want to turn back the threat of the delta variant? Get vaccinated. It's free, it's easy and it's the best and only way to put the pandemic in our collective rearview mirror.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:33 AM, MONDAY, JULY 5, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite images show partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. There is a band of mid and high level clouds passing through Rota and Guam now, which was blown off from thunderstorms near Tinian early this morning. In the next few hours this should be gone. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 6 feet, composed mainly of east trade-wind swell and waves. The Ipan buoy is blocked from the north, west and south, however computer model wave guidance suggests wave energy from these directions is minimal at this time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:36 AM	3:42 PM	-
Wednesday	3:17 AM	4:33 PM	-
Thursday	4:02 AM	5:25 PM	-
Friday	4:51 AM	6:17 PM	-
Saturday	5:43 AM	7:09 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	54° / 43°	
Beijing	Sunny	99° / 79°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Rain	68° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	93° / 74°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°	
Paris	Showers	73° / 63°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	84° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 73°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 52°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	97° / 77°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:07 AM	High Tide	1.91	
11:42 AM	Low Tide	0.26	
6:56 PM	High Tide	1.76	
11:38 PM	Low Tide	1.40	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable				

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Business

Maui mayor asks airlines for fewer tourists amid travel boom

HONOLULU (AP)—For nearly a year, Maui residents had their tropical oasis virtually to themselves.

Then the visitors all came flooding back.

“Over-tourism” has long been a complaint of locals on the Hawaiian island that is among the world’s most popular getaways: congested roads, crowded beaches, packed restaurants.

But as the U.S. begins to emerge from the pandemic, Maui is reeling from some of the same strains seen on the mainland, like a shortage of hospitality workers. And its restaurants, still operating at limited capacity, are struggling to keep up.

Now, as cooped-up mainlanders return in droves, Maui officials are making an unusual plea to airlines: Please don’t bring so many people to our island.

“We don’t have the authority to say stop, but we are asking the powers to be to help us,” Mayor Michael Victorino said at a recent news conference.

Hawaii has had some of the nation’s most stringent coronavirus public health restrictions, and it’s the only state that hasn’t fully reopened, in part due to its remote location and limited hospitals. Also high on people’s minds is the memory of diseases that wiped out 80% of the Native Hawaiian population in the century after Europeans arrived.

The governor doesn’t plan on lifting all restrictions until 70% of the state’s population is vaccinated. As of Friday, 58% were.

Yet Hawaii has become an



In this Wednesday, June 16, 2021 file photo, travelers queue up in long lines to pass through the south security checkpoint at Denver International Airport, in Denver. AP

attractive destination as other states ease rules, particularly because some overseas travel is still restricted. And Maui is a favorite spot for vacationers from the U.S. mainland, where the pace of COVID-19 vaccinations has been robust.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority said 215,148 visitors came to the island in May compared to just 1,054 during the same month last year, when tourism all but shut

down amid COVID-19 fears and Hawaii’s requirement that travelers quarantine upon arrival. That’s not far off May 2019, when 251,665 visitors arrived.

Even more are expected over the July 4 holiday weekend, with the Maui Visitors Bureau anticipating arrivals will at least equal 2019 levels.

Restaurants, which are operating at 50% capacity, are feeling the crunch.

“We’re under more pressure than we’ve been in pre-COVID, that’s for damn sure,” said Jack Starr, who manages Kimo’s in Lahaina, which has a reservation wait list almost

two months out.

Eateries will be allowed to start filling 75% of their seats later this week, but Starr says the employee shortage and a 6-foot (2-meter) dis-

tancing requirement for tables leave their hands tied.

“Are you kidding me?” he said. “You got to take that down to 3 feet, and we might have something going here.”

People along the US-Canadian border await word of reopening

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—In a normal, pre-COVID-19 summer, scores of pleasure boats are anchored in Lake Champlain off the Burlington waterfront by July 4, with most of them from Canada. But the anchorage is nearly empty this year because of the ongoing border closure.

People who rely on those boaters directly and indirectly hope Canadians are back soon enough to avoid losing a second summer to the pandemic.

“We can’t wait to welcome our visitors from Canada so that they can really embrace our new location in Burlington because I know that they are going to like it as much as we do,” said Elizabeth White, the director of development for Dream Yacht Charter. The company, which rents live-aboard sailing vessels to tourists across the world, moved its Lake Champlain operations to Burlington from upstate New York in 2020.

But it’s unclear when the border—an easy sail about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north to where Quebec’s Richelieu

River drains the lake north into Canada—will fully reopen.

In the early days of the pandemic, the U.S. and Canadian governments closed the more than 5,500-mile (8,800-kilometer) border to nonessential traffic. Now with increasing vaccination rates and dropping infection rates, many are annoyed the two governments

haven’t laid out detailed plans to fully reopen the border.

Canada is easing its restrictions. Starting Monday, fully vaccinated Canadians or permanent legal residents may return to Canada without quarantining. But among the requirements are a negative test for the virus before returning, and another once they get back.

Scale, details of massive Kaseya ransomware attack emerge

BOSTON (AP)—Cybersecurity teams worked feverishly Sunday to stem the impact of the single biggest global ransomware attack on record, with some details emerging about how the Russia-linked gang responsible breached the company whose software was the conduit.

An affiliate of the notorious REvil gang, best known for extorting \$11 million from the meat-processor JBS after a Memorial Day attack, infected thousands of victims in at least 17 countries on Friday, largely through firms that remotely manage IT infrastructure for multiple customers, cybersecurity researchers said.

REvil was demanding ransoms of up to \$5 million, the researchers said. But late

Sunday it offered in a posting on its dark web site a universal decryptor software key that would unscramble all affected machines in exchange for \$70 million in cryptocurrency.

Earlier, the FBI said in a statement that while it was investigating the attack its scale “may make it so that we are unable to respond to each victim individually.” Deputy National Security Advisor Anne Neuberger later issued a statement saying President Joe Biden had “directed the full resources of the government to investigate this incident” and urged all who believed they were compromised to alert the FBI.

Biden suggested Saturday the U.S. would respond

if it was determined that the Kremlin is at all involved.

Less than a month ago, Biden pressed Russian President Vladimir Putin to stop giving safe haven to REvil and other ransomware gangs whose unrelenting extortionary attacks the U.S. deems a national security threat.

A broad array of businesses and public agencies were hit by the latest attack, apparently on all continents, including in financial services, travel and leisure and the public sector—though few large companies, the cybersecurity firm Sophos reported. Ransomware criminals infiltrate networks and sow malware that cripples them by scrambling all their data. Victims get a decoder key when they pay up.

Gas prices over the Fourth

At \$3.12, the national gas price average is at its highest of the year and not stopping.

Holiday weekend averages	
July 2 – 6, 2014	\$3.66
July 1 – 5, 2015	\$2.76
June 30 – July 4, 2016	\$2.27
June 30 – July 4, 2017	\$2.23
July 3 – 8, 2018	\$2.86
July 3 – 7, 2019	\$2.75
July 1 – 5, 2020	\$2.17
July 2 – 2021	\$3.12

Source: AAA
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Nation



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

Spectators watch from the Queens borough of New York as fireworks are launched over the East River and the Empire State Building during the Macy's 4th of July Fireworks show, Sunday, July 4, 2021. AP

Biden: US 'coming back together,' but COVID not yet finished

WASHINGTON (AP)—Calling a vaccination “the most patriotic thing you can do,” President Joe Biden on Sunday mixed the nation’s birthday party with a celebration of freedom from the worst of the pandemic. He tempered the strides against COVID-19 with a warning that the fight against the virus wasn’t over.



Biden

“Today, all across this nation, we can say with confidence: America is coming

back together,” Biden declared as he hosted more than 1,000 service members, first responders and other guests for a July Fourth celebration on the South Lawn of the White House.

For Biden it was a long-awaited opportunity to highlight the success of the vaccination campaign he championed. The event was the largest yet of his presidency, the clearest indication yet that the U.S. had moved into a new

phase of virus response. Shifting from a national emergency to a localized crisis of individual responsibility, the nation also moved from vaccinating Americans to promoting global health.

“This year the Fourth of July is a day of special celebration, for we’re emerging from the darkness of a year of pandemic and isolation, a year of pain fear and heartbreaking loss,” the president said before fireworks lit up the sky over the National Mall.

Noting the lockdowns that shuttered businesses, put mil-

lions out of work and separated untold numbers of families, Biden said: “Today we’re

closer than ever to declaring our independence from a deadly virus. That’s not to say

the battle against COVID-19 is over. We’ve got a lot more work to do.”

ACROSS THE NATION

8 people wounded in shooting near Fort Worth car wash

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Eight people were wounded early Sunday when a person began shooting toward groups of people near a Fort Worth car wash and multiple people returned fire, police said. Police said in a statement that the eight gunshot victims were taken to hospitals and were in stable condition. Police said no suspects were in custody. Police said an officer in the area heard gunshots at about 1:30 a.m. and when officers arrived, they found the eight people who had been shot. Police said Sunday afternoon that detectives had determined the shooting began following an argument between several men. Police said one person then left the scene, retrieved a gun and began shooting toward groups of people. Police said multiple people in the area then returned fire. Most of those wounded were innocent bystanders, police said.

Governor: Heat death toll at least 95 in Oregon alone

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A Pacific Northwest heat wave has killed at least 95 people in Oregon alone, a number that state’s governor called “absolutely unacceptable.” “Following events like this we always do reviews and see what we can do better next time,” Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said Sunday on “Face the Nation” on CBS. Hundreds are believed to have died from the heat over the past week in

the U.S. Northwest and southwestern Canada. Records included 116 degrees Fahrenheit (47 degrees Celsius) in Portland and 108 F (42 C) in Seattle. The hot weather was headed east, with temperatures well above 100 F (38 C) forecast Sunday for parts of Idaho and eastern Montana.

Golf pro, 2 others fatally shot at Atlanta-area country club

KENNESAW, Ga. (AP) — A professional golfer and two other men were killed in a shooting at an Atlanta-area country club and the suspect is still at large, authorities said. Officers found an unresponsive man with an apparent gunshot wound to the head Saturday afternoon near the 10th hole of the golf course at Pine-tree Country Club in Kennesaw, Cobb County. Police Officer Shenise Barner told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. The department identified him Sunday as country club employee and golfer Eugene Siller. “Tragedy has stricken the Georgia Section PGA in the loss of our Member, Gene Siller. Thoughts and prayers for his family and the Pinetree Country Club family,” the Georgia section of the Professional Golfers’ Association of America said in a tweet. Upon further investigation, police said two other dead men were discovered in the bed of a white pickup truck that was on the green. Both had apparent gunshot wounds. Barner said one was identified as Paul Pierson, the registered owner of the truck, and that the other man has not been identified. Police have not yet found the killer.

Explosives bring down rest of South Florida collapsed condo

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP)—Demolition crews set off explosives late Sunday that brought down the damaged remaining portion of a collapsed South Florida condo building, a key step to resuming the search for victims as rescuers seek access to new areas of the rubble.

A loud rat-at-tat of explosions echoed from the structure just before 10:30 p.m. Then the building began to fall, one floor after another, cascading into an explosion of dust. Plumes billowed into the air, as crowds watched the scene from afar.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava told the Associated Press after the demolition that crews had been given the all-clear to resume their search-and-rescue mission to locate the 121 people believed to be missing under a wing of the Champlain Tower South that collapsed June 24. So far, rescuers have recovered the remains of 24 people. No one has been rescued alive since the first hours after the collapse.

On Sunday, Miami-Dade police identified David Epstein, 58, as one of the two dozen people known to have perished

in the fallen tower. His remains were recovered Friday.

The demolition went “exactly as planned,” she said. “It was picture perfect. Exactly what we were told would happen.”

Crews were to begin clearing some of the new debris so rescuers could start making their way into parts of the underground garage that is of particular interest. Once there, they were hoping to get a clearer picture of voids that may exist in the rubble and could possibly harbor survivors.

Asia

The Philippine military's worst air disaster kills 50, wounds 49

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops found the last five dead from the crash of a transport aircraft in the south, raising the death toll to 50 in the military's worst air disaster, officials said Monday.

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was carrying 96 mostly combat troops when it overshoot the runway while landing Sunday at the Jolo airport in Sulu province, military officials said. It slammed into a coconut grove beyond the airport and burst into flames in a noontime disaster witnessed by horrified soldiers and villagers.

Troops, police and firefighters rescued 49 military personnel, including a few who jumped off the aircraft before it exploded and was gutted by fire. Seven people on the ground were hit by aircraft parts and debris, and three of them died, the military said.

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was one of two refurbished U.S. Air Force aircraft handed over to the Philippines, Washington's oldest treaty ally in Asia, as part of military assistance this year.

The aircraft earlier had carried two-star Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., his wife and three children from Manila to southern Cagayan de Oro city, where he's set to become the



This photo released by the Joint Task Force - Sulu shows the remains of a Philippine military C-130 plane that crashed in Patikul town, Sulu province, southern Philippines on Sunday, July 4, 2021. **AP**

new military regional commander on Monday.

Those who boarded the C-130 in Cagayan de Oro for the flight to Sulu were army troops, many of them newly trained recruits, to be deployed in the battle against Abu Sayyaf militants in the south.

Brawner was stunned to learn the plane he'd just flown on had crashed. "We're very thankful that we were spared, but extremely sad that so many lost their lives," Brawner told The Associated Press.

A video taken by troops showed the aircraft landing in clear weather then vanishing beyond the airport. "It vanished, it vanished," one soldier exclaims. Dark gray smoke later billowed from the crash site in a wooded area as the troops, yell, "It fell, it fell" and let off curses in horror.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash and investigators were looking for the C-130's black boxes containing the cockpit voice and flight data recorders.

preparing to release their names in hopes of reaching some that might not have been caught in the landslide. Initially, 147 of those people were unreachable, but that number was revised downward after city officials confirmed some had safely evacuated or were away when the disaster struck, it said. The disaster is an added trial as authorities prepare for the Tokyo Olympics, due to start in less than three weeks, while Japan is still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. At least 20 were initially described as missing.

Blast at Thai factory shakes Bangkok airport, area evacuated

BANGKOK (AP)—A massive explosion at a factory on the outskirts of Bangkok early Monday shook an airport terminal serving Thailand's capital, injured at least 11 people and prompted the evacuation of residents from the area, authorities said. The fire broke out at around 3 a.m. at a foam and plastic pallet manufacturing factory in a southeastern area just outside Bangkok near Suvarnabhumi Airport. Firefighters could be seen in photos from Thai media climbing through twisted steel wreckage to get their hoses close enough to the flames as they fought to control the blaze. Other photos showed nearby homes with their windows blown out and wreckage in the streets, with black smoke billowing over the area even hours later. Authorities ordered the evacuation of an area 5 kilometers (3 miles) around the scene amid fears that thousands of liters of leaking chemicals may cause more explosions.

World

4 dead in Cyprus forest fire

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Cyprus search crews discovered four charred bodies outside a fire-swept mountain village on Sunday in what the interior minister called the "most destructive" blaze in the eastern Mediterranean island nation's history.

Interior Minister Nicos Nouris said Civil Defense volunteers discovered the remains just outside the village of Odou on the southern edge of the Troodos mountain range.

The blaze, which began Saturday afternoon outside the village of Arakapas, spread quickly amid strong winds and forced the evacuation of at least eight mountain villages, destroying homes and scorching 55 square kilometers (21 square miles) of pine forest and orchards.

"We are experiencing the most destructive fire since the founding of the Cyprus republic," Nouris said, adding that 50 homes were damaged so far.



A burned car is seen on Troodos mountain, in Ora village, southwestern Cyprus, Sunday, July 4, 2021. **AP**

Authorities believe the bodies belong to four Egyptian laborers aged 22 to 29 who had gone missing Saturday evening. Nouris said he has spoken to the Egyptian ambassador to Cyprus and that arrangements will be made to repatriate the remains.

Odou community chief Menelaos Philippou told state-run Cyprus News agency the four men who worked at a greenhouse that grew tomatoes tried to flee the fire along a mountain road, but their small truck veered off the road and crashed down an embankment. They then try to flee on foot but didn't make it.

'Pope reacted well to intestinal surgery'

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis "reacted well" to planned intestinal surgery Sunday evening at a Rome hospital, the Vatican said, without giving much detail about the pontiff's condition.

In a statement late Sunday, a Holy See spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the 84-year-old Francis had general anesthesia during the surgery necessitated by a narrowing of the large intestine.

The written statement, which came shortly before midnight, was notable for its scarcity of medical detail.



Pope Francis

Bruni didn't say how long surgery lasted, nor for how long the pope was unconscious under anesthesia.

Also not immediately clear was how long Francis would stay Rome's Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic, a Catholic hospital, although he was expected to convalesce for a few days in a private 10th floor apartment suite reserved for popes.

"The Holy Father, admitted in the afternoon to A. Gemelli Polyclinic, underwent in the evening planned surgery for a diverticular stenosis of the

sigmoid" portion of the colon, Bruni said in the brief written statement. "The Holy Father reacted well to the surgery conducted under general anesthesia," the spokesman said, noting there was a four-person surgical team, plus a four-person anesthesiologist team.

A stenosis is an abnormal constriction or narrowing. The sigmoid portion of the large intestine extends from the end of the descending colon to the rectum. Gastroenterologists say the sigmoid segment is a common location for a diverticular stenosis.

The main surgeon was Dr. Sergio Alfieri, the director of Gemelli's digestive surgery department.

UK leader to revamp virus rules

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister Boris Johnson will provide an update Monday on plans to ease COVID-19 restrictions in England, amid speculation that he will scrap rules that require people to wear masks in many public settings.

Johnson is scheduled to hold a press conference on the government's current outlook for "freedom day"—the plan to end the remaining coronavirus restrictions on business and social interactions on July 19. A final decision will be announced on July 12 based on a series of tests, including vaccination rates and the risks posed by new virus variants.

The British government, which put into place one of the longest lockdowns in the world, has lifted restrictions in a series of steps that began with reopening schools in March. The fourth and final stage was delayed last month to provide time for more people to be vaccinated amid concerns about the rapid spread of the delta variant, which was first discovered in India.

"Today we will set out how we can restore people's freedoms when we reach step four," Johnson said in a statement ahead of his news conference. "But I must stress that the pandemic is not over

and that cases will continue to rise over the coming weeks."

Some doctors have expressed concerns about easing restrictions further as infection rates continue to rise. But there hasn't been an equivalent increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations or deaths, emboldening ministers who believe that Britain must learn to live with the virus and that the time is right to end the remaining restrictions.

The number of confirmed new infections in the U.K. over the past seven days rose 67% from the previous week but the 122 coronavirus-related deaths reported were two fewer than the previous week.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia hospital: 33 COVID patients die amid oxygen outage

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Dozens of coronavirus patients died after a public hospital on Indonesia's main island of Java ran out of liquid oxygen amid a nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases, a hospital official said Sunday. At least 33 patients with severe coronavirus infections died after the central supply of liquid medical oxygen ran out late Saturday at Dr. Sardjito General Hospital in Yogyakarta city due to delays from suppliers over the weekend, said hospital spokesman Banu Hermawan. The oxygen shortage in the city's largest hospital was due to an increase in patients arriving in deteriorating condition, Hermawan said. At least 63 virus patients died during treatment for COVID-19 in the hospital since Saturday—33 of them during the period when the central liquid oxygen supply ran out—even though the hospital switched to using oxygen cylinders during the outage, he said. Medical oxygen comes in liquid and compressed forms.

Japan searches for dozens missing in resort town mudslide

ATAMI, Japan (AP)—Rescue workers slogged through mud and debris Monday looking for dozens feared missing after a giant landslide ripped through a Japanese seaside resort town, killing at least three people. Eighty people were still unaccounted for, according to Shizuoka prefectural disaster management official Takamichi Sugiyama. Officials were

Overdrive

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

Oh, it's on.

The 2021 Bronco is a rockin', sockin' instant archrival to off-road's King Jeep Wrangler. After years atop the hill, our hero Wrangler has an equal for the throne. It's Superman vs. Batman. Wonder Woman vs. Captain Marvel. Spider Man. They're both the good guys.

The Wrangler will put you on its back and take you anywhere. So will Bronco. Anywhere like Austin where I flogged Ford's off-road beast over impossible terrain in the Texas foothills: streams, rocks, bigger rocks, craggy inclines, hair-raising declines. Built like Wrangler with two-or-four removable doors atop a rugged truck frame, Bronco boldly follows the trail the Jeep blazed.

The rivalry is refreshing in this age of kumbaya, let's-all-hold-hands-to-the-EV-future bonhomie. Booooring. Bronco vs. Wrangler is the kind of gloves-off rivalry Detroit relishes. Like the truck and muscle-car wars, it will bring new

customers to new frontiers.

I've lived and loved the track rivalry between Mustang-Camaro-Challenger—similar ponies, different personalities. So it is with Bronco-Wrangler.

Rivalries breed respect, and there is no bigger admirer of Wrangler than Bronco. Ford has embraced the Wrangler's free spirit—fishnet door storage, detachable swaybars, roll bar, drain plugs, etc.—then mated it with the Blue Oval's signature tech 'n' performance DNA.

"We saw the opportunity to build a more modern off-road SUV that Wrangler is not taking advantage of," said Bronco marketing guru Mark Gruber, taunting his rival at the weigh-in ahead of the heavyweight fight.

From stem to stern, Bronco asks the questions: can we simplify it? Modernize it?

Start with the front end, a 2020s interpretation of the '60s Bronco's iconic face. Simplify? Modernize? Yup. The hood pops open like a normal hood—no struggling with the Wrangler's signature straps.

Climb into the Wrangler and tall guys like me might bang their noggin' on the fat



The 2021 Ford Bronco. FORD/TNS

rollbar. Go high-speed off-roading and I'll have lumps the size of goat horns. Bronco integrates the bar into the ceiling, allowing for easier access and headroom.

Bronco's smartly conceived, modular tech is everywhere.

In an off-road world spoiled by Wrangler customization, every Bronco panel can be removed (the term "Legos" was liberally used by engineers). Just locate the "Bronco Bolts" with BRONCO stamped on their heads. Even the grille can be swapped out if you wanna' different look.

Removing 50-pound aluminum doors is never easy. Bronco simplifies the task with frameless, mirrorless doors (now you know why the wing-like mirrors are attached to the hood). Remove three bolts. Cap the electric wire harness. Wrap the doors in bags. If you have a four-door Bronco, you can stow them upright in the trunk. Fold back your soft-top

roof (a removable hard top is also available) and you are at one with nature.

Want to take off my Outer Banks tester's painted fenders for scratch-resistant plastic ones? Have at it with five easy clips. Want to take off the whole @!*& fender? Wrench some Bronco Bolts.

The drivetrain is simple, too, for the inevitable off-road temptation. It's not, ahem, electric.

Ford suits say the automaker's future is battery-powered, but their brand halo SUV says it's gas-powered. Good luck crossing the Outback in anything else. Motivating all four wheels are a choice of great engines familiar to Ford fans: the 330-horsepower, 2.7-liter twin-turbo V-6 from the F-150 and 300-horse, 2.3-liter turbo-4 from the Ford Focus RS/Mustang Hi Po.

Okay, a brief detour off Simplification Trail into Trim Swamp.

The Bronco comes in a diz-

zying array of trims, including the Outer Banks, Base, Big Bend, Black Diamond, Wildtrak, Badlands and Skull Island (not sure about that last one). Just pick one depending on your budget and taste. They're all good. Then lemme recommend the Sasquatch package with ginormous, 35-inch tires and Bilstein shocks. Add 360-degree camera. And vinyl interior with drain plugs so you can wash out the mud.

Now we're cookin' with hot sauce.

After a torrential overnight rain in Austin, I tackled the slippery, rocky terrain of Ford's Austin Off-Road Park in a two-door, Sasquatch-equipped Wildtrak. Where Wrangler offers a second stick shifter that has to be muscled to operate its HIGH/LOW gear transfer case, Bronco simplifies with a rotary dial. Ford calls it the GOAT (Goes Over Any Type of Terrain) dial.

I spun it to MUD/RUTS

mode, which prepped the 10-speed transmission and engine for serious, low-speed rock crawling. When the 4WD system encountered slip, I reached for a row of buttons at the top of the dash (so I didn't take my eyes off trail). Buttons like front-and-rear locking differentials or detachable swaybars that adjust on the fly (no stopping to shift into NEUTRAL. I see Wrangler nation drooling.).

We on-track speed junkies love torque-vectoring Subaru STIs and VW Golf Rs, and Ford makes sure off-roaders benefit from this tech, too. I fingered the Trail Turn Assist button and brakes retarded the inside rear wheel, slinging Bronco's arse through tight turns. Treat your Dodge Hellcat buddies with off-road donuts.

Don't think Wrangler is waiting? Jeep introduced its Xtreme Recon package this summer with Sasquatch-fighting, 35-inch tires.

Oh, it's on.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Ford Bronco

- Vehicle type: Front engine, four-wheel-drive, five-passenger, compact SUV
- Price: \$31,490 (2-door) and \$36,190 (4-door), including \$1,495 destination fee (\$56,795 2-door Wildtrak, \$53,150 4-door Outer Banks as tested)
- Powerplant: 2.3-liter turbo-charged 4-cylinder; 2.7-liter twin-turbo V-6
- Power: 300 horsepower, 325 pound-feet torque (turbo-4); 330 horsepower, 415 pound-feet torque (V-6)
- Transmission: 7-speed manual; 10-speed automatic

- Performance: 0-60 mph, (NA); towing capacity, 3,500 pounds
- Weight: 4,286 to 5,117 pounds
- Fuel economy: 20 city/22 highway/21 combined (turbo-4, manual Base trim); EPA est. mpg 18 city/18 highway/18 combined (turbo-4 Wildtrak trim as tested); 17 city/17 highway/17 combined (V-6 Black Diamond as tested)
- Report card
- Highs: High-tech interior; turbo-4 base engine
- Lows: Doors only stow in the 4-door version; gets pricey
- Overall: 4 stars

MOTORMOUTH: So what temp is it?

Q: I purchased a 2020 Kia Sportage and have noticed that when I park the vehicle for a short of time, the outside air temp gauge reads very high. Once I start driving the vehicle again, the temp reading starts going down to what I feel is the correct outside temp. From a cold start, the gauge seems to work OK. My local dealer indicated that all vehicles do this. I disagreed with them in that my Mazda3 and my previous Saturn Vue did not. Is this a problem with the sensor or do all Kia Sportages do this?

A: The ambient temperature sensor on your car is located near the radiator and air conditioning condenser. During hot soak (before the car cools

down after driving), the sensor feels the heat emanating from this hot environment. As you drive, the temperature reads correctly, but keep in mind that the system is purposely designed to show the changes gradually. The sensor is fine.

Q: I like the Honda HRV, but my son says I'm a fool to get a car with a CVT as transmission. Also, I've read that the complaints are that the car is underpowered for highway driving. The car gets wonderful comments and accolades for every other category, it just has a weak engine and the CVT transmission bugaboo. What do you think?

A: The term "underpowered" depends on who you

talk to. Compared to the Civic Type-R rated at 306 HP, the HR-V is underpowered. With regular, routine maintenance the continuously variable transmission (CVT) should last the life of the car. Honda had some problems in the past but has redesigned the transmission.

Q: My mom has a 2005 Chrysler 300 touring and lately it has been getting stuck in park. After a while though, she is able to get out of park. This happens randomly. The mechanic has looked at it a couple times and replaced a sensor on it, but it's still happening and they can't figure out what it is. They can't even mimic the problem whenever it's with them.

A: There are two issues that may not allow shifting out of park. One is a broken spring in the shifter assembly, but when that happens, it is for keeps, not intermittent. The second, more common problem is a bad solenoid in the shifter assembly. If that is the case, you can remove the tray next to the shifter revealing a pink button. Pressing it allows the shifter to be moved.

Q: I have a 2009 Ford Mercury Mountaineer with 83,000 miles on it, and it has served me very well for what I need. But I've had a terrible squeaking problem on the back wheels when I back out of garage. The rear brakes were replaced 12 months ago. The dealership, when I complained a few months

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains his status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



ago, says it's rust from lack of use, but I use it every day for local shopping. The front wheels do not squeak and are original brakes. Help, it sounds horrible. Do the rear wheels need grease?

A: Ack. Grease on the brakes is a big no-no. Most people would surmise that grease

would cause the brakes to slip. The truth is just the opposite; oil or grease makes them grab. Having said that, there is special anti-squeal grease that is applied to the backing plate of the brake pads, between the pads and caliper pistons, that is designed to quiet the squeal. Every auto parts store carries it.

Life & Style

By **BILL BARROW**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP) — The young midshipman needed a date one evening while he was home from the U.S. Naval Academy, so his younger sister paired him with a family friend who already had a crush.

Nearly eight decades later, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter are still together in the same tiny town where they were born, grew up and had that first outing. In between, they've traveled the world as Naval officer and military spouse, American president and first lady, and finally as human rights and public health ambassadors.

"It's a full partnership," the 39th president told The Associated Press during a joint interview ahead of the couple's 75th wedding anniversary on July 7.

It will be another milestone for the longest-married presidential couple in American history. At 96, Carter also is the longest-lived of the 45 men who've served as chief executive. Yet even having reached that pinnacle, Carter has said often since leaving the Oval Office in 1981 that the most important decision he ever made wasn't as head of state, commander in chief or even executive officer of a nuclear submarine in the early years of the Cold War.

Rather, it was falling for Eleanor Rosalynn Smith in 1945 and marrying her the following summer. "My biggest secret is to marry the right person if you want to have a long-lasting marriage," Carter said.

The nonagenarians — she's now 93 — offered a few other tips on an enduring bond.

"Every day there needs to



Jimmy, Rosalynn Carter mark 75 years of 'full partnership'

be reconciliation and communication between the two spouses," the former president said, explaining that he and Rosalynn, both devout Christians, read the Bible together aloud each night — something they've done for years, even when separated by their travels. "We don't go to sleep with some remaining differences between us," he said.

Rosalynn Carter noted the importance of finding common interests. Even now, she said, "Jimmy and I are always looking for things to do together."

Still, she emphasized a caveat: "Each (person) should have some space. That's really important."

As first lady, Rosalynn Carter carved her own identity even as she supported her husband. Building on her predecessors' efforts to highlight special causes, she went to work in her own East Wing office, setting a standard for first ladies by working alongside her husband's West Wing aides on key legislation, especially dealing with health care and

mental health. She continued that focus as the couple built the Carter Center in Atlanta after their White House years.

Certainly, a 75-year marriage hasn't been seamless, the couple acknowledges.

Jimmy was initially on course to be an admiral, not commander in chief, and Rosalynn appreciated their life beyond Plains, home to fewer than a thousand people, then and now. But when James Earl Carter Sr. became sick and died in 1953, his son cut

short his Navy career and decided the family would return to rural Georgia.

The former president has written that in retrospect he finds it inconceivable not to discuss such a life-changing decision with his wife, who was unhappy with the move. Now, they see the blossoming of their partnership in that challenging juncture.

"We developed a partnership when we were working in the farm supply business, and it continued when Jimmy got involved in politics," Ro-

salynn Carter told AP. "I knew more on paper about the business than he did. He would take my advice about things," she added, drawing a laugh and affirmation from her husband.

Jimmy Carter also didn't seek Rosalynn's permission to make his first bid for office a few years later. In that instance, she was on board anyway. "My wife is much more political," he said.

She interjected: "I love it. I love campaigning. I had the best time. I was in all the states in the United States. I campaigned solid every day the last time we ran."

That didn't help avoid a rout by Republican Ronald Reagan in 1980. But it further cemented Rosalynn—who'd originally given up her own opportunity to go to college when she married at age 18—as equal partner to the leader of the free world. And it marked Jimmy Carter's evolution as a spouse.

He's since been an outspoken voice for women's rights, including within Christianity. Carter left the Southern Baptist Convention in 2006, denouncing what he called "rigid" views that "subjugated" women in the church and in their own marriages.

The former president ratified those views again, as well as his support for the church recognizing same-sex marriage. "It will continue to be divisive," he said. "But the church is evolving."

Girlfriend notes change in man's talks with ex

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a slightly older divorced man. He and his ex-wife have been divorced 15 years. They remain civil. Their two children are now adults. Recently, a friend of my boyfriend and his ex passed away. They spoke on the phone, caught up a bit and that was the end of that.

Another tragic event happened last week that caused them to talk again. Early in our relationship, he told me he and his ex don't really communicate unless tragic events or things involving the kids come up. However, there has been an increase in dialogue between them beyond these events. It seems odd to me that out of the blue their communication has increased. Granted, it was sparked by unfortunate events, but while those have come and gone, the talking remains, even though it never used to. Should I be concerned? Should I bring this up?

EX ISSUE IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR EX ISSUE: I am sorry you didn't mention how long you and this man have been seeing each other. If your exclusive relationship has been going on longer than six months, you are within your rights to point out that this is a change in his pattern of behavior and ask him what's up.

DEAR ABBY: My mom and I haven't been close in 20

years. We live on opposite sides of the country, talk monthly and FaceTime on holidays. She has abused alcohol for years, and has gone through phases of phoning me drunk and berating me for leaving our hometown. Recently, she's been saying she wants me to visit, but she is anti-vax. I'm not comfortable visiting her until she gets vaccinated. Please advise.

STAYING AWAY IN OREGON

DEAR STAYING: I assume you have been vaccinated. If so, and your mother is willing to wear a mask and socially distance during your visit, then you could go. Of course, my response is predicated upon your DESIRE to visit your mother, and from the tone of your letter, I have the distinct impression you would rather not. (And for good reason.)

DEAR ABBY: My mother passed away from dementia in January 2020. When she was diagnosed in 2016, I started keeping all her appointments and anything else important in a journal. During those four years, my life was so involved with hers that writing daily became an outlet for my feelings. I have 11 small journals I still read occasionally, and it would be a shame to throw them away. Please tell me what to do with them.

REMEMBERING IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR REMEMBERING: The course of your dear mother's illness must have been painful. The intimate thoughts and feelings you kept in those journals might be of some value to your children, if you have any. Because the writings are of such a personal nature, offer the journals to them. If they refuse, you might also contact the Alzheimer's Association and ask what others do with these kinds of sensitive documents.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

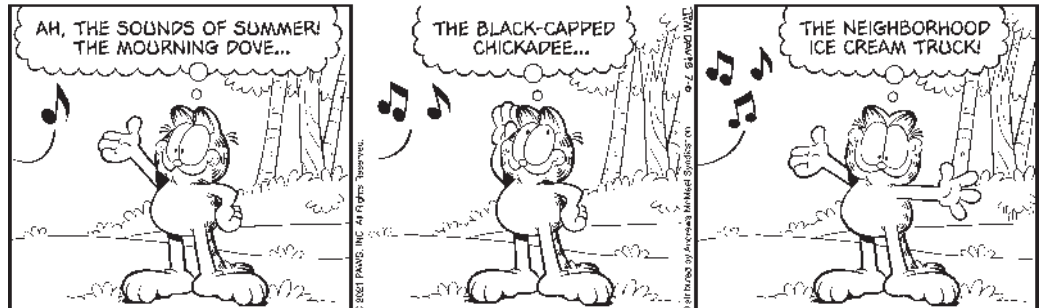
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



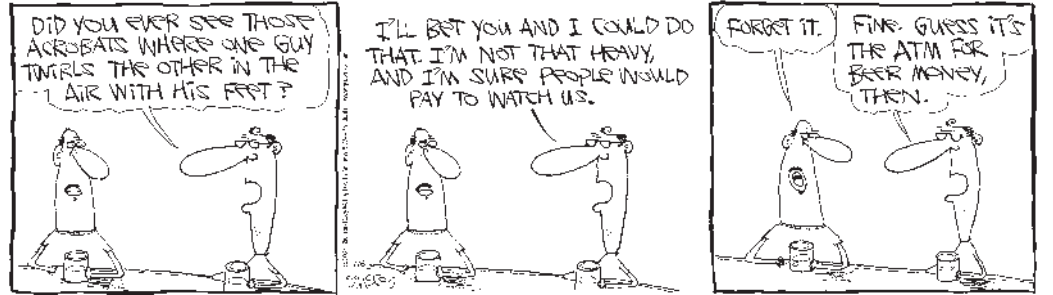
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Church seating
5 Bashful
8 Hereditary unit
12 La Scala solo
13 Paul Newman film
14 Blood-hound's clue
15 Present attachments
17 Stable diet
18 Shoe width
19 Pinafare letters
20 Fess up
21 "My word!"
22 — Tuesday
23 City near Venice
26 Wants
30 Roman 1106
31 Squabble
32 "— the word"
33 "The Twilight Zone" creator

DOWN

35 Borscht base
36 Airport screening org.
37 Helium, for one
38 Fabric
41 Hockey's Bobby
42 Not on
45 Frau's mate
46 Chinese drink
48 Con
49 Merit badge org.
50 Loving
51 Stinging insect
52 Drunkard
53 Stamina

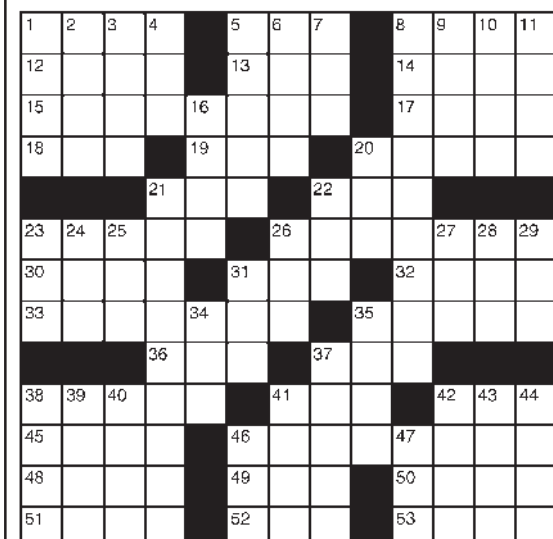
DOWN

1 Senate staffer
2 A Great Lake
3 Spouse
4 Plopped down
5 Dishonor
6 Embraces
7 QB's
8 Esther Rolle sitcom
9 Wax-coated cheese
10 Terse denial
11 Formerly, once
16 Mother of Helios
20 Small batteries
21 Unfounded remorse, maybe
22 Hardly any
23 Downing St. VIPs
24 Tennis feat
25 TiVo, for example
26 Pooch
27 Wish otherwise
28 911 responder
29 Snake's sound
31 Genetic letters
34 Some-what (Suff.)
35 Naked
37 "Awe-some!"
38 Tobacco plug
39 Sultry
40 Scraps
41 Guesser's words
42 Oklahoma tribe
43 — shui
44 Craze
46 "Pygmalion" monogram
47 Patriots' org.

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	M	C	P	U	N	C	A	R	C
R	I	C	A	R	A	A	I	F	S
L	I	Z	A	D	E	M	R	S	V
E	X	E	R	T	R	E	A	R	
S	C	R	B	E	S	T	E	N	O
L	O	V	E	H	I	M	H	A	T
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D	E	R	V	E	D	E	B		
J	O	S	H	U	A	M	L	O	R
E	D	I	E	R	E	L	O	A	M
T	E	A	R	A	W	P	S	I	

Yesterday's answer 7-6



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Hart, 42; Tia Mowry, 43; Tamera Mowry, 43; Sylvester Stallone, 75.

Happy Birthday: Consider your options and what will put you in your comfort zone. Explore creative endeavors that are engaging and broaden your perspective on what's possible and how best to fulfill your dreams. Refuse to let outsiders interfere with your plans. Change begins with you; follow your heart, and put your energy where it counts. Don't take unnecessary health risks. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 25, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reach out to someone who can offer sound advice. Clear up a work-related situation before agreeing to something that may stand between you and a job prospect. Personal improvements that give your image a boost will be heartening. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When in doubt, take a step back and let matters unfold naturally. Don't feel pressured to get involved in something that is costly or doesn't line up with your beliefs. Look for alternative options that fit into your daily routine. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take better care of yourself, and avoid unpredictable situations. Pay attention to detail, and respectfully present your thoughts. Offer others the truth, and stand behind your word. Reflection will provide insight into your next move. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do what feels right and makes you happy. Take responsibility for your life and your livelihood. Step into the spotlight if it will help you

reach your objective. Don't let anyone meddle in your financial, legal or personal concerns. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pay attention to improving your relationships using honesty and integrity to ensure positive results. Work toward better health habits. Limit overspending and taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Choose to be fair, not generous and frivolous. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Nothing will be as it appears. Double-check information, and don't rely on others to be reliable. Spend more time on details, and use your imagination to outsmart someone who offers an exaggerated point of view. Change only what's necessary. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stand alone and finish what you start. You'll require discipline if you want to make headway. Don't listen to someone who cannot validate or support the truth. Choose peace over chaos, and you'll come out on top. Romance is favored. ★★

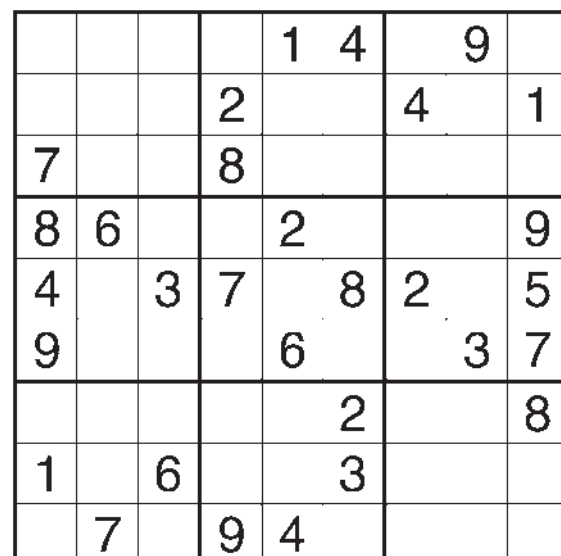
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll face opposition if you are too open regarding your intentions. Iron out any foreseeable problems before you share your plans. Changes you make at home will improve your lifestyle and your relationship with someone close to you. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Leave nothing to chance. State the facts and proceed to the finish line. Your strength and courage will be assets and motivate others to help you reach your objective. Don't give in to situations that tempt you. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



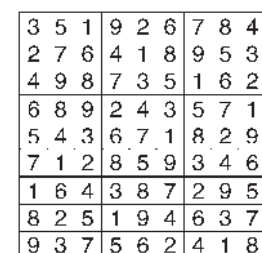
Difficulty Level ★★

7/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Cut your overhead and free up cash for something you want to do that will improve your life and your relationship with someone close to you. Trust your intuition to help you make the right decision, not an outsider trying to manipulate you. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend more time at home or with someone who makes a difference in your life. Discussions will lead to plans that will add stability to a meaningful relationship. Listen to your heart, and follow and aim to reach your goal. Romance is featured. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful what you say. Sensitive issues will erupt if you don't choose your words wisely. Someone you think you can trust will let you down or lead you astray. Verify the information you receive before passing it along. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are curious, perceptive and appealing. You are enticing and believable.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DINING IN TUSCANY

Solution: 10 letters

O A C C E T S I B R E A D E N
I T L T O R T E L L I P L A Y
C I T L A C O L S M E O S S L
C L C O E G A S A P P E A S A
A L C R D N T L P P M L E P T
N O L F O E A E E R M O O M I
G B P I O W S R Z A O A C T I R
A I E O B S T P N A A T T R I
T R C R C E L I M A T L O H L
S A O E I A V O N A P R C S L
A S R N T N T I E I L A C T E
C W I T S S O M L R A G U E N
P E N I U N O I N O P I Z A N
N E O N R F O C A C C I A K A
A T S A P I O C C U I C C A C

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7/6

Beans, Bistecca, Bread, Cacciucco, Cannellini, Castagnaccio, Crostini, Fiorentina, Focaccia, Garlic, Italy, Lampredotto, Local, Meat, Olive Oil, Onion, Panzanella, Parmesan, Pasta, Pecorino, Pepper, Ragù, Ribollita, Rustic, Sage, Salami, Salmon, Shrimp, Steak, Stew, Sweet, Tartufo, Tomatoes, Tortelli, Zappole, Zuccotto

Yesterday's Answer: Designer

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Ohtani homers again as Angels beat Orioles 6-5



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—

Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 31st homer in the third, and Juan Lagares ended it with a two-run double in the ninth inning of the Los Angeles Angels' 6-5 comeback victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

Cedric Mullins hit a tie-breaking homer for Baltimore in the ninth in his first game after making his first All-Star team, but the Angels jumped all over Cole Sulser (2-1) without making an out in the bottom half.

After Los Angeles loaded the bases on a walk and two short singles, Lagares doubled to the gap in right-center, extending the Angels' winning streak to five games. Raisel Iglesias (6-3) got the win.

Ohtani tied the MLB record for the most homers in a season by a Japanese-born player when he blasted a 459-foot solo shot off Thomas Eshelman to straightaway center. It was his 14th homer in 17 games overall.

Less than an hour later, Ohtani became the first player in major league history to be picked for an All-Star Game as both a hitter and a pitcher.

Anthony Rendon also homered for Los Angeles in the third before leaving with left hamstring tightness.

Pirates 2, Brewers 0

In Pittsburgh, Tyler Anderson pitched seven sparkling innings, and Pittsburgh snapped Milwaukee's 11-game winning streak.

Kevin Newman homered and Wilmer Difo had an RBI double as the Pirates stopped a six-game slide.

Milwaukee managed just three hits off Anderson (4-8), who broke a personal five-game skid. The left-hander struck out six and walked two while throwing 93 pitches.

Milwaukee's win streak was the second-longest in franchise history. The Brewers won their first 13 games in 1987.

David Bednar and Richard Rodriguez finished the four-hitter with one inning apiece. Rodriguez earned his 11th save in 13 opportunities by completing the Pirates' third shutout of the season.

Milwaukee's Freddy Peralta (7-3) had control issues with five walks in six innings. But he allowed just two runs and three hits.

Mets 10, Yankees 5, Game 1 Yankees 4, Mets 2, Game 2

In New York, Gio Urshela hit a three-run homer and the New York Yankees saved a little face by beating the Mets to

avoid a Subway Series sweep.

In the opener of the split doubleheader, Pete Alonso hit a tying home run off imploding Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman (5-3) leading off the seventh inning and José Peraza had a go-ahead, two-run double that included interference from a visiting fan in the Bronx in a 10-5 Mets stunner. The Mets also won Saturday's series opener 8-3.

Alonso connected in the late game as well, becoming the first Mets player since Shawn Green on Sept. 6, 2006, to homer in both ends of a doubleheader.

With fireworks echoing around jam-packed Yankee Stadium, the Bronx Bombers won for the second time in nine games to get back above .500 at 42-41.

Chad Green (3-4) closed with three perfect innings, striking out six in his longest outing since September 2019. The right-hander finished with an immaculate seventh.

Corey Oswalt (1-1) allowed Urshela's homer to the short porch in right field but otherwise held his own in his first start of the season.

Jeury's Familia (3-1) pitched a scoreless sixth to win the opener.

Red Sox 1, Athletics 0

In Oakland, Calif., Nick Pivetta struck out 10 over seven innings, and Boston went ahead on a double-play groundout by Rafael Devers in the sixth.

The teams played a third straight one-run game after splitting a pair of extra-inning contests, including Oakland's 7-6, 12-inning victory Saturday that snapped Boston's eight-game winning streak.

Pivetta (7-3) allowed two hits and walked two. He had been 0-3 since beating Atlanta on May 26.

Garrett Whitlock pitched the eighth for Boston before All-Star closer Matt Barnes earned his 19th save in 23 chances.

Oakland's James Kaprielian (4-3) struck out a career-best 10 over seven innings.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Anthony DeSclafani threw 8 2/3 effective innings, Austin Slater and Darin Ruf both homered and San Francisco won its third straight.

Giants All-Star catcher Buster Posey left the game with a left thumb contusion after taking a foul tip off his glove hand. He tried to stay in the game but left after just one more pitch.

DeSclafani nearly pitched his third complete game of the season but was lifted in the ninth after Christian Walker's RBI single with two outs



made it 5-2. Tyler Rogers got the final out for his 10th save. DeSclafani gave up six hits and two walks while striking out seven.

Diamondbacks left-hander Caleb Smith gave up five runs over six innings. He allowed five hits, one walk and struck out five.

Braves 8, Marlins 7, 10 innings

In Atlanta, pinch-hitting pitcher Max Fried lined a bases-loaded single in the 10th inning, lifting Atlanta to a wild comeback victory.

Fried was called on to hit with the Braves out of position players after a four-run rally in the ninth. He singled on a 3-1 pitch off Anthony Bass (1-4), driving in Dansby Swanson from third base and setting off a celebration on the first-base line.

Miami opened a 7-3 lead with three runs in the ninth. Sandy Leon led off with a drive to right for his second homer. Starling Marte singled with two out and scored on Jesús Aguilar's 13th homer.

Ronald Acuña Jr. homered and drove in three runs for Atlanta. Will Smith (3-5) pitched the 10th for the win.

Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs for Miami, which dropped two of three in the series.

Mariners 4, Rangers 1

In Seattle, Chris Flexen pitched six effective innings for the Mariners, and Luis Torrens homered for the seventh time in his past 13 games.

Seattle extended its recent surge, winning its fifth straight series of longer than two games. It has won 11 of 15 overall.

Pitching on four days' rest for the first time this year, Flexen (7-3) allowed one run and four hits. Kendall Grave-

man worked the ninth for his eighth save.

Texas' Mike Foltyniewicz (2-8) permitted four runs and four hits in seven innings.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 1

In Buffalo, N.Y., Austin Meadows had three hits, including two RBI doubles, and the Rays ended their 10-game road losing streak.

Wander Franco hit his second homer for Tampa Bay, which had dropped five in a row overall. Yandy Díaz had two hits and scored twice.

Ryan Yarbrough (5-3) pitched five innings of four-hit ball for the win.

Randal Grichuk hit his 15th homer for Toronto in the second. Robbie Ray (6-4) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings.

Dodgers 5, Nationals 1

In Washington, Albert Pujols hit a go-ahead single as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning, and the Dodgers completed a seven-game season sweep of the Nationals.

Los Angeles has won a season-high nine straight games since getting no-hit on June 24 by the Chicago Cubs. The Dodgers improved to a season-best 22 games over .500 at 53-31 following a sweep of the four-game series.

Beat-up Washington has lost four in a row.

Washington's Joe Ross (5-8) allowed three runs in 6 2/3 innings with no walks and 11 strikeouts, his most since 2017.

David Price (4-0), the fifth of eight Dodgers pitchers, tossed two scoreless innings on what manager Dave Roberts planned as a bullpen day.

Padres 11, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Manny Machado drove in five runs with a

pair of homers, leading San Diego to the victory.

The Padres stopped a three-game losing streak with their 50th win of the season.

Padres left-hander Blake Snell tossed four scoreless innings, allowing two hits and four walks in his first start since June 22. Snell had been on the injury list after feeling the effects of food poisoning.

Austin Adams (3-2) tossed a scoreless fifth to earn the win, and the Padres used four more relievers over the last four innings.

Reds 3, Cubs 2

In Cincinnati, Amir Garrett escaped a jam in the ninth inning, and the Reds handed the Cubs their ninth straight loss.

Chicago scored a total of five runs in the weekend series. It went 1-9 on a 10-game trip.

The Cubs put runners on first and second with one out in the ninth, but Garrett got Willson Contreras to bounce into a 5-4-3 double play for his sixth save.

Tucker Barnhart had two hits and drove in a run, helping Cincinnati to its fourth straight victory. Art Warren (2-0) got one out for the win.

Astros 4, Indians 3, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Yuli Gurriel scored on a two-out error by pitcher Emmanuel Clase in the 10th inning, helping Houston complete a four-game series sweep.

Gurriel advanced to third on a fielder's choice by Jason Castro, then came around when the Indians failed to complete a double play on the throw back to first by Amed Rosario.

The shortstop forced out Carlos Correa at second base, but Clase (3-3) mishandled his return throw, allowing Gurriel to scamper home. Gurriel

AP
Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani (17) reacts after swinging a strike during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles Sunday, July 4, 2021, in Anaheim, Calif.

struck out leading off the inning, but reached on Clase's wild pitch.

Blake Taylor (1-2) got the win, and Brooks Raley earned his second save with a scoreless 10th.

Tigers 6, White Sox 5

In Detroit, Jeimer Candelario had three hits, Akil Baddoo drove in two runs and the Tigers held on for the victory.

Detroit won the final two games of the series for its first series win over the White Sox since Sept. 3-5, 2018.

Tigers reliever Gregory Soto was forced to change his glove before pitching the ninth inning with a 6-2 lead. Billy Hamilton and Tim Anderson singled, and José Abreu hit his 14th homer with one out.

José Cisnero needed one pitch for his fourth save in five chances, retiring Andrew Vaughn on a lineout to right. Tyler Alexander (1-1) pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings for the win.

Rockies 3, Cardinals 2

In Denver, Elías Díaz hit an RBI single for Colorado with two out in the ninth inning, and Germán Márquez struck out 11 and was picked for his first All-Star team.

Díaz sent a 3-2 pitch from All-Star closer Alex Reyes (5-3) into left. Josh Fuentes, who had reached on a single, beat the throw home with a head-first dive.

As the crowd cheered, Díaz was mobbed in the outfield by teammates as the Rockies won for the third time in four games against St. Louis. Díaz also lifted the Rockies with a three-run homer in the ninth on Thursday.

Colorado star Trevor Story tied the game with a sacrifice fly in the eighth. Story also went deep in the first.

Twins 6, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Kenta Maeda struck out a season-best 10 in six scoreless innings, and Minnesota halted a five-game losing streak.

Maeda (4-3) gave up two hits and a walk in a splendid outing that matched his longest of the year.

Jorge Polanco, Alex Kirilloff and Max Kepler homered for the Twins.

Jarrod Dyson hit a two-run single in the bottom of the ninth for Kansas City. Brad Keller (6-9) was charged with two runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Bucks hope Antetokounmpo can return for long-awaited Finals



ATLANTA (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks proved they were good enough to wrap up the Eastern Conference finals without their best player.

Now the Bucks face a quick turnaround before Game 1 of the NBA Finals at the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night. It's not known if that leaves Giannis Antetokounmpo sufficient time to recover from his hyperextended left knee that prevented him from playing in the final two games of the series against the Atlanta Hawks.

"It's just a day-to-day thing," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said after a 118-107 win over the Hawks gave Milwaukee a 4-2 series victory.

"We'll update it when appropriate. The conversations between he and myself, it's kind of private and we'll see where he is each day."

Budenholzer said he was impressed with the resiliency the Bucks showed in winning back-to-back games without Antetokounmpo, the two-time MVP.

Khris Middleton, who stands with Antetokounmpo as the veteran leaders on the team, scored Milwaukee's first 16 points of the second half and led the Bucks with 32. Jrue Holiday added 27 points, nine assists, nine rebounds and four steals.

Antetokounmpo remained on the Bucks' bench and was so animated, sometimes moving onto the court as he



communicated with his teammates, that Budenholzer said he feared the star might draw a technical foul.

Holiday said the players were inspired to win for their star who could not be with them on the court.

"Have his back," Holiday said. "I mean, Giannis is a one-of-a-kind guy. We obviously all see his basketball talent, but as a human being he's one of a kind. ... In my opinion, one of the biggest things we did the last two games was play for him, have his back

and hold the fort while he was out with an injury."

Holiday added that clinching the spot in the finals without Antetokounmpo "shows we are a true team."

The reward is Milwaukee's first berth in the NBA Finals since 1974. Milwaukee won its lone title in 1971 and lost in the finals in 1974.

Antetokounmpo was the center of the Bucks' efforts to build a championship contender. Not having him on the floor took a little something out of the celebration.

"There's a bittersweetness to him not being able to play these last two games," Budenholzer said.

The Bucks listed Antetokounmpo as doubtful before announcing he would not play. For the second consecutive game, Bobby Portis started in the forward's spot.

"I definitely wish he was out there with us, but he's still here with us," Middleton said. "On the bench, talking to us during the game, he's still a part of it."

The Bucks were in the playoffs for the fifth consecu-

tive season. They fell short of the NBA Finals the last two seasons despite posting the NBA's best regular-season record both times.

"Just like any team in the league, when this group hasn't been able to advance, hasn't been able to continue, it's hurt, it's been hard," Budenholzer said.

The Bucks won playoff series against Miami, Brooklyn and Atlanta to end the franchise's long NBA Finals drought.

Antetokounmpo and Mid-

AP
Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo embraces Bobby Portis (9) after the Bucks defeated the Atlanta Hawks in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals in the NBA basketball playoffs, advancing to the NBA Finals, Saturday, July 3, 2021, in Atlanta.

dleton are the Bucks' veteran leaders who experienced the disappointment of falling short in the postseason the last two years.

"Honestly, it's been a long journey, but it's been a great journey," Middleton said. "It's worth it."

The Bucks led only 47-43 following a sloppy first half before Middleton took over to open the second half Saturday. He scored the first 13 points following halftime, including two 3-pointers, stretching the lead to 60-43. Following a basket by Atlanta's Trae Young, Middleton answered with another 3.

Middleton said he was motivated to "Stay in the moment. Don't think about the situation. Don't think about what game it is. Just stay in the moment."

It was the leadership the Bucks needed to reach the finals without their biggest star.

"It just shows the guts of our team," said P.J. Tucker.

The players wore NBA Finals caps following the game but no champagne flowed in their locker room.

"Nope," Tucker said before explaining: "We ain't did nothing yet."

ATLANTA (AP)—As the final seconds ticked off on a season that lasted far longer than anyone expected, the crowd rose to its feet to salute the home team.

The Atlanta Hawks sure earned the cheers.

Making an improbable turnaround from what looked like another lost year, the Hawks earned a spot in the playoffs for the first time since 2017, knocked off the top-seeded team in the East, and made it all the way to the conference finals.

The Cinderella run finally ended Saturday night with a 118-107 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks, who won the series 4-2 and advanced to the NBA Finals to take on the Phoenix Suns.

But the disappointing finish did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of a long-downtrodden franchise that seems poised for more long-term success than at any time since moving to Atlanta in 1968.

"This is the beginning," Trae Young said. "We have the city excited and we want to keep it like that."

The Hawks will likely bring back largely the same cast next

Hawks look to bright future after surprising playoff run

season, though they do have two major issues to address: power forward John Collins' contract status and the interim tag on Nate McMillan's coaching title. Each boosted his value with the team's improbable postseason run.

"Obviously it's something I feel like I've voiced my opinion about a lot, saying I want to be here," Collins said Sunday. "I've tried to be the best professional I can and let the business side be the business side."

"We're going to have to come to a decision very soon, but hopefully the best one for me and the one that keeps me here."

Veteran backup Solomon Hill said Sunday he expects McMillan to return unless another team "gave him a zillion dollars and some ownership stake."

"He's doing the things he has to do to take care of himself and his family, just like anybody and everybody else would do," Hill said. "But Nate is our coach. He's just

waiting to get the final details and all that stuff. Like I said, unless the Orlando Magic came in and gave him a hundred million a year or something crazy, Nate McMillan is going to be our coach."

McMillan and Young led the young team on a memorable postseason run.

With Young turning in one dominant performance after another, Atlanta romped past the resurgent New York Knicks in the opening round, then stunned the top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers in the conference semifinals, winning Game 7 on the road.

The Hawks finally met their match against Milwaukee. They were left to wonder how things might've turned out if Young had not been injured in a freak accident in Game 3 when he stepped on an official's foot along the sideline and twisted his right ankle.

Young missed the next two games with a bone bruise and, even though he was cleared to play Game 6, he clearly wasn't

at his best. The charismatic point guard finished with just 14 points on 4-of-17 shooting.

"I just wanted to battle and try to fight through it as much as I could, try to be out there for my team," Young said. "But it was definitely frustrating not being healthy and not being able to give my full 100%."

After struggling in the playoffs in his previous coaching stops, McMillan showed that he's capable of leading a team to postseason success.

There was nothing exciting about the Hawks the past three seasons. They endured lots of losing while rebuilding the roster around a string of bountiful drafts that brought in Young, Collins, Kevin Huerter, De'Andre Hunter and Cam Reddish.

Flush with cash and finally ready to make a push in the standings, the Hawks spent big in the free-agent market last fall to bring in Bogdan Bogdanovic and Danilo Gallinari, giving the team a much-needed veteran presence.

But when the Hawks approached the All-Star break with a 14-20 record, it looked like more of the same. Lloyd Pierce was fired as coach after less than three seasons on the job, the team turning to McMillan as the interim boss in hopes he could spark a turnaround.

Boy, did he ever.

With McMillan instilling a newfound toughness that paid off in the fourth quarter of close games, the Hawks played as well as any team in the league the rest of the season — a 27-11 mark that gave them the No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Atlanta general manager Travis Schlenk, who has seemingly made all the right moves in building the roster, is clearly not sure if he wants to tie up so much money on Collins — especially when it's clear that Young is the face of the franchise and will soon be getting a huge deal of his own.

Young is eligible for a max extension.

"I'm a big live in the moment type of person," Young said Sunday. "Hopefully it comes. We'll have to wait and see when it happens."

Even if the Hawks decide to part ways with Collins, they will go into next season viewed with a whole new respect by the rest of the league.

Reddish is 21. Young and Huerter are 22. Hunter is 23. Clint Capela, who led the NBA in rebounding and became the bulwark of the Hawks' defense, is 27. Bogdanovic is 28.

And don't forget the most recent first-round pick, center Onyeka Okongwu, who had a promising rookie campaign at age 20.

Collins, who is just 23, would love to be part of the mix, as well.

"We're not done yet," he said. "We're still hungry."

They appear ready to reap the rewards for years to come. "We'll be back!" Young yelled to the crowd on his way off the court.

"I meant that with my whole heart," he said. "It's been a special season and I'm excited about what's to come."

After last Middle Sunday, Wimbledon resumes with fresh faces

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Wimbledon’s traditional Middle Sunday of rest will disappear in 2022, as will the Manic Monday that follows it.

For one last time, the oldest Grand Slam tournament was quiet as Week 1 of this year’s edition ended. And for one last time, Week 2 will begin with a bevy of action, the only major to schedule all 16 women’s and men’s fourth-round singles matches on the same day.

“I think I will miss it, to be honest,” 2018 champion Angelique Kerber said.

Get ready for a packed scheduled Monday that includes teenagers Coco Gauff and Emma Raducanu, No. 1 Ash Barty and Kerber in women’s matches, along with Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, a total of eight of the top 10 seeds and 20-year-old American Sebastian Korda in men’s matches.

It won’t be the same moving forward, and Federer understands why the All England Club is changing its ways in this regard.

“Everybody wants more days. Look, more days means more revenue, more options, more this and that. I get it,” he said. “I don’t think they did it only because of revenue. I think they just think it’s going with the times, as well.”

It’s quite possible that the rest of the fortnight could end up being viewed as its own sort of referendum on the present and future of tennis.

That’s because while there are representatives of the old guard who have multiple Grand Slam titles, including at the All England Club — Federer (20), Djokovic (19) and Kerber (three) — there truly are so many fresh faces.

Of the 32 singles players still in the brackets, 26 never have been to the quarterfinals at Wimbledon — and 20 are participating in the fourth round for the first time.

Korda, who faces No. 25 seed Karen Khachanov, is making his debut at Wimbledon, as is Ilya Ivashka, a 27-year-old from Belarus who takes on No. 7 Matteo Berrettini, a 2019 U.S. Open semifinalist who leads all remaining players with 60 aces.

Djokovic’s opponent, No. 17 Cristian Garin of Chile, and Federer’s, No. 23 Lorenzo Sonego of Italy, were a combined 0-5 at the All England Club until this year.

The other men’s matches Monday are No. 2 Daniil



Coco Gauff of the US serves to Russia’s Elena Vesnina during the women’s singles second round match on day four of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Thursday July 1, 2021.

Medvedev vs. No. 14 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 4 Alexander Zverev vs. No. 16 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 5 Andrey Rublev vs. Marton Fucsovics, and No. 8 Roberto Bautista Agut vs. No. 10 Denis Shapovalov.

Bautista Agut was a semifinalist in 2019, the last time the tournament was played because

of the cancellation a year ago amid the pandemic, and is the only man left other than eight-time champion Federer and five-time champion Djokovic to even have been to so much as one quarterfinal at Wimbledon.

Kerber, No. 23 Madison Keys and No. 19 Karolina Muchova are the only women

with past quarterfinal experience at the place.

Kerber faces Gauff, a 17-year-old American who also made it to the fourth round in 2019 and is coming off her first Grand Slam quarterfinal at Roland Garros last month.

“She’s really dangerous, especially on grass courts,” Ker-

ber said. “I see the fire (in) her, as well.”

A key to Gauff’s success is her serve: She is tied for the fastest by a woman during Week 1 at 121 mph and her 23 aces rank second only to Barty’s 26.

Britain’s Raducanu, a wildcard entry who is 18 and ranked 338th, is making her Grand Slam debut and appearing in only her second tour-level event of any sort. Other women at Wimbledon for the first time include 2019 French Open champion and Barty’s opponent, 2021 French Open champ Barbora Krejickova, No. 18 Elena Rybakina (who plays No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka) and Liudmila Samsonova (who plays No. 8 Karolina Pliskova).

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add a variety of disciplines,” he said.

The NMA official said they also made it a point to promote master athletes by adding events for them in each

specific age group category. He said participants of masters events also usually make up a majority of their volunteers for future meets.

Sapong went on to invite the islands’ track and field athletes to take part in the Track and Field Open Meet for July,

adding that the CNMI is lucky that it’s already at Level Green in the Community Vulnerability Risk Level.

“We are blessed to be able to organize events for our athletes and community as some other areas still have restrictions in place with COVID-19

protocol. We also plan to have another [track and field meet] in August post Tokyo 2022,” he said.

For his part, NMA president Ramon Tebuteb said the organization holding its second track and field meet in two months is not out of the ordi-

nary and was actually normal in the past.

“We have conducted these monthly meets on a regular basis in the past. The training regime of each athlete is flexible. Trust is established between our coaches and athletes [by holding these regular

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and Emergency Management Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola, 4-up. Cruz gave Saipan a 2-1 lead after besting Lee Roy Atalig, 8-up.

Saipan went up 3-1 after Norita dominated Narro, 8-up; before Hocog gave the visitors a 4-1 spread with a 4-up victory over Orilla. Manglona gave Rota its second win following a 4-up win over Joshua Atalig before Benavente and Cama-

cho capped Saipan’s 6-2 win in individual play after 3-up and 4-up triumphs over Ian and Olan Jacob, respectively.

In the two-man scramble later in the afternoon, Peter and Mendiola started things off by humbling Manglona and Lee Roy Atalig, 7-up. Karl Hocog and Cruz then ended their match against Joel Hocog and Narro all squared up. Norita and Joshua Atalig played impressively, especially the youthful Atalig in a 7-up demolition of Ian Jacob and Orilla.

Benavente and Camacho then brought the bacon home with a 4-up win over Olen Jacob and Domingo Atalig. It was 3.5-0.5 for Team Saipan in the two-man scramble event.

Camacho thanked Team Rota for hosting the first-ever 670 Friendship Golf Tournament between the two islands and invited more Rota players to the 2nd Annual 670 Friendship Golf Tournament that Saipan is scheduled to host next year.

“On behalf of myself and

the guys from Team Saipan, we all want to thank Team Rota for everything and for hosting us with great hospitality. I hope that next year this event will be a lot bigger and also for Team Rota to have a bigger number of players joining the event. It’ll be fun and we’re all looking forward for next year,” he said.

Camacho said while Team Saipan was overjoyed to take home the 670 Friendship Golf Tournament perpetual trophy, ultimately everyone was

a winner after golfers from Saipan and Rota finally were able to share the golf course together and break bread after 36 holes of golf.

“Part of the trip was for us to bring something different to Rota and also to share ideas and get to know other players. But most importantly, it’s all about the camaraderie and the time spent with Saipan and Rota golfers. We were also encouraging Rota players to come up to Saipan and tryout for the Pacific Mini Games

THOMPSON

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cause of the great opportunities it presents. It is a world-class education combined with athletics and the promotion of leadership. I also wanted to follow in my grandfather’s footsteps. He was a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force,” said Thompson, who represented the CNMI in various regional and international swimming competitions.

The 19-year-old said she will continue to swim in the Academy, but not competitively. She also credited the sport and her coaches for getting her ready for a new journey outside the pool.

“Being an athlete in the CNMI influenced my decision to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. Growing up, my

swim team was like my second family. As I searched for potential schools, I knew that I wanted a school based on the same dynamics of camaraderie. I learned that one of the most valuable things in life is teamwork. The strongest takeaway for me from swimming was learning how we grow by helping others grow the foundation of leadership. My time representing the CNMI around the world was an incredible honor that changed my life and opened up opportunities,” Thompson said.

“I would like to thank coach Jacoby Winkfield for being the backbone of my swimming career. He taught me the most important lessons that cannot just be learned in school. It was with his discipline and dedication that I was able to accomplish most of my great-

est achievements. I would also like to thank coach Richard Sikkell who became my swim coach in my junior and senior year of high school. He is one of the most committed coaches I have met. Additionally, thank you to [Northern Marianas Swimming Federation] for helping me throughout my time representing the CNMI,” she added.

Wish for swimming community

Although she is staying away from competitive swimming, Thompson wishes that swimmers who are still on Saipan will remain committed to the sport and that they will get to train in a “real” pool this time.

“The Marpi pool has been closed for a few years now and getting the pool back for the next generation of swimmers

would be great. From personal experience, I know how devastating it was when the pool closed because it was another home to us, my swim family,” said Thompson, who swam for SSC for 13 years.

The Olympic-size pool closed last Oct. 1, 2018 after the lease agreement between the CNMI government and Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd, the operator of the Marpi facility, ended. Discussions have been made to reopen the 50-meter pool, while the approved \$21.2-million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the rebuilding of the Oleai Sports Complex includes the construction of a swimming pool with associated facilities. In the meantime, swimmers are training in open water and private pools.

“Coaches, athletes, and par-

ents are doing a great job at making the most of the current situation. Swimmers in the CNMI are truly outstanding. They epitomize what real perseverance is. They are working hard despite the lack of resources and they deserve to have the pool back,” Thompson said.

Meanwhile, the veteran swimmer said as she begins her 47-month Air Force Academy journey, she will take on the challenge as if it is another swim competition.

“I am excited to start this new journey in my life. I am also a little nervous. But, just like getting prepared for a swim meet, I am going to need to channel the nerves into a positive energy. I can’t wait for the start of a new chapter. I am humbled to be given a chance to serve.”

MLB STANDINGS				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	53	32	.624	
Tampa Bay	48	36	.571	4½
Toronto	43	39	.524	8½
New York	42	41	.506	10
Baltimore	27	57	.321	25½
Central Division				
Chicago	49	34	.590	
Cleveland	42	39	.519	6
Detroit	38	46	.452	11½
Kansas City	35	48	.422	14
Minnesota	34	48	.415	14½
West Division				
Houston	52	33	.612	
Oakland	49	37	.570	3½
Seattle	45	40	.529	7
Los Angeles	42	41	.506	9
Texas	33	51	.393	18½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
New York	43	37	.538	
Atlanta	41	42	.494	3½
Washington	40	42	.488	4
Philadelphia	39	42	.481	4½
Miami	35	47	.427	9
Central Division				
Milwaukee	51	34	.600	
Cincinnati	43	40	.518	7
Chicago	42	42	.500	8½
St. Louis	41	44	.482	10
Pittsburgh	30	53	.361	20
West Division				
San Francisco	53	30	.639	
Los Angeles	53	31	.631	½
San Diego	50	36	.581	4½
Colorado	37	48	.435	17
Arizona	23	63	.267	31½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ohtani homers
again as
Angels beat
Orioles 6-5

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After last
Middle Sunday,
Wimbledon
resumes with
fresh faces
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20 TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan tops 670 Friendship Golf tourney



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Saipan and Team Rota players pose for a group photo after taking part in the Inaugural 670 Friendship Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Rota Resort & Country Club.

Team Saipan defeated Team Rota to win the Inaugural 670 Friendship Golf Tournament held last Saturday at the picturesque Rota Resort & Country Club.

The visitors overcame the hosts' home-field advantage to take home the championship of the 36-hole event between the neighboring islands, 9.5-

2.5, in the match play tournament.

Team Saipan was made up of captain Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho and fellow national

golf team members J.J. Atalig and Marco Peter, Joshua Atalig, Tony Benavente, Gary Cruz, Dennis Mendiola, Karl Hocog, and Ned Norita.

Team Rota was represented by Henry "Small" Manglona, Lee Roy Atalig, Joel Hocog, D.J. Narro, Olen Jacob, Ian Jacob, Aldrin Orilla, and Do-



mingo Atalig. In the individual competition played in the morning, J.J. Atalig squared off against Joel Hocog and won, 4-up. Domingo Atalig tied it at all up, however, when he bested Rota native and Department of Fire

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Saipan captain Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, right, receives the perpetual trophy from Team Rota captain Olen Jacob during the awards banquet for the Inaugural 670 Friendship Golf Tournament held last Saturday at the Rota Resort & Country Club.

Thompson takes on new challenge off the pool

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Richard Clark and command chief Chief Master Sgt. Sarah Sparks. Thompson was also

Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson has started her new journey off the pool after reporting for basic cadet training at the U.S. Air Force Academy.



among the few trainees interviewed about their expectations at the U.S. Air Force Academy. "Everything new can be scary," Thompson was quoted as saying

Thompson was among the more than 1,100 high school graduates who were accepted to the prestigious academy that kicked off six weeks of rigorous mental and physical training for the Class of 2025 last June 24 at the Holaday Athletic Center in Colorado. The Saipan International School alumna and other trainees were greeted by Academy superintendent Lt. Gen.

in the US Air Force Academy website. "I'm just proud to represent my island. I want to say 'thank you' to my parents and I'm honored to be here."

At the institution, Thompson hopes to major in political science.

"I decided to apply for the U.S. Air Force Academy be-

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NMA open track and field event on July 24

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Northern Marianas Athletics will again hold an open track and field event on July 24 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Like last month's competition, the Track and Field Open Meet for July will have nine divisions—18-and-under, open, masters 35-39, masters 40-44, master 45-49, masters 50-54, masters 55-59, master 60-64, masters 65+, and masters 70+.

Events include the 200m, 800m, 4x100m, javelin, shotput, and discus. NMA said a 5K event is also on the table, but it will be at 5:45pm the day before on July 23.



MARK RABAGO

Northern Marianas Athletics' Track and Field Open Meet this month will be held at the Oleai Sports Complex on July 24. Photo shows Theodore Rodgers taking part in last month's long jump.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong said the federation holding regular track and field meets now will somehow compensate with the lack of competitions—local and re-

gional—that was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the past year.

"With the cancellation and postponement of many regional championship events,

we had to find a way to get our athletes back to competition. Summer is normally athletics season where we often travel outside the CNMI for competition," he said.

Sapong, who is also president of the Oceania Athletics Association, said regular meets also help NMA's grass roots development and hone up-and-coming athletes.

"We also use this kind of event for talent identification for our young athletes. We encourage them to try a variety of events to avoid event-specific [training] at an early age. To keep our events engaging and manageable to both participants and our supporters, we decided to have a short schedule of events but still

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THE REPORTERS' ACADEMY

In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI's Jinju Thompson competes in the 100m freestyle event during the 18th FINA World Swimming Championships in Gwangju, South Korea.